

DeBakey HSHP PTO – Meeting Minutes  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

Meeting called to order by President Singh at 6:34 p.m. Thank you to parents and faculty for their participation and involvement with PTO. It's important to support student development.

Principal Updates – Asst. Principal Goudeau highlighted several items from this month's State of the School report (posted on DeBakey website). Please check school website for a full listing of Debate Club and Art student awardees. A few highlights:

Kyle Tsai (12th) nominated to join the National Chemistry Olympiad. Juston Jung (11th) State champion for Design Robotics competition.

Houston Science and Engineering Fair - Kevin Song (11th) advanced to state competition where he placed second.

National Beta Club – David Kim (12th) received the John W. Harris Leadership Award (one of only five annual selected recipients).

Houston Law Day Essay Competition: Eric Lee (12th) - 1<sup>st</sup> place; Uma Patel (12th) – 2<sup>nd</sup>; Kimberly (12th) – 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Transportation – Students need to complete on-line survey concerning transportation needs for the next school year. Availability of transportation will be tied to survey feedback.

This Saturday's scheduled Yearbook pictures for 10th graders has been cancelled due to low response. Progress Reports for Cycle 5 grades will be posted Friday, April 16.

There's a new course selection procedure for the coming school year. Counselors will meet with students during a Health Science class period.

Tutorials continue to be conducted daily during the lunch period (11:10 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.), and at other times as scheduled with individual teachers.

Reminders: STAAR testing – started this month and will continue through May. AP Exams will be administered in May and June. Final exams will be administered in June.

Information regarding 2022 trip to Greece is available on the PTO website.

Ms. Goudeau confirmed that the Fall school schedule has been approved b HISD and school hours at DeBakey will remain unchanged in the Fall.

PTO Board Elections - Nominating Committee chair, Nellie Naidoo, presented slate for '21-'22 school year. Z. Mahra moved to accept the nominations and V. Barnett seconded. Unanimous support for the slate as presented. Congratulations extended to Nichole Ake, newly elected PTO president. Volunteers solicited for several open Board positions: VP Volunteers – Adriana

Ordonez; VP Communication – Mark Aldag and Mark /Grace Rodonez; Fish Camp - Sannayu Buckmire; Communications – S. Buckmire. Nominations closed and, upon motion and second, additional positions accepted by unanimous consent. Remaining yet to be filled positions will be discussed outside this evening's meeting, with goal of getting the vacancies filled before next month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Forgey reported current balance is \$95,235.63. PTO received a total of \$51,807 in donations this year. Total expenses to date (including sports, school donor wall and uniforms) are \$40,025.

Fundraising Report – Trina Nguyen reported three additional donors since the last PTO meeting, for a running total of 46 donors. Mounting of wall plaque was delayed as a result of the winter storm; however, mounting inside the building will be complete by end of the school year. Donations are still being accepted and there is still space on the Donor Wall – email Trina ([fundraising@debakeyPTO.org](mailto:fundraising@debakeyPTO.org)) to contribute. Apron sales netted \$900 that was donated to Class of '21.

Teacher Appreciation Week – Trina Mehra reported this year's celebration will occur the week of May 3 – 7. Lunch will be served daily, featuring a different cuisine everyday: Mexican, Asian, Italian and American cuisines (2). Preparations being made to serve 90 as there are 87 total faculty and staff. It's not too late to donate! Parents are encouraged to send donations to [teacherappreciation@debakeyPTO.org](mailto:teacherappreciation@debakeyPTO.org).

Uniforms – Nellie Naidoo reported sales for incoming freshmen last Saturday (4/10) were \$5,285. There was a large turnout and much excitement looking towards the new school year. Total uniform sales this year are \$13,514. Looking for volunteers to take over uniform sales. PTO intends to have uniforms available during Fish Camp. Plans are also being made to include sophomores in the some portion of the Fish Camp since they missed out last year due to the pandemic.

Activities - Cheerleading/Basketball are still on hold. Volleyball is going well. Some students asked about starting a competitive dance group at DeBakey, in addition to Dance Club.

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison – Nichole Ake reported Volleyball external on-line coaching continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Continuing to receive positive feedback from participants.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade Liaison – Irma Aguilar reported she, N. Naidoo and Z. Mahra have been working diligently on Senior celebration, that will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> at the McGovern Centennial Gardens (near Herrmann Park). Dinner will be served. Planning committee meets every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Senior contribution for this event is \$30. Committee needs to get an accurate head count and is hopeful that all Seniors will participate.

Senior parents – please urge your Senior student to submit a short video clip and/or photos to Marguerite Yu.

Vivian Yeh expressed interest in being parent volunteer to start a Fine Arts/Orchestra for UIL participation.

School yearbooks are available via Balfour.com. See school website for direct link.

Next meeting (final for this school year is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

President Singh adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

(58 Participants at this evening's PTO Meeting. Attendance list, please see attached)