

DeBakey HSHP PTO Board - Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2019

Present: Nellie Naidoo, Andrea Simon, Ziba Mehia, Nichole Ake, Valerie Barnett

Meeting began at 6:45 p.m.

Board Members Naidoo, Mehia and Simon voted to approve Valerie Barnett as Secretary for the PTO Board. Board member introductions followed.

PTO Meeting minutes were last posted in April. Meeting minutes are to be posted on the DeBakey website. Secretary will need to gather any meeting minutes from 2018-2019 school year (both Board and general PTO meetings) to maintain accurate records going into the upcoming school year.

General discussion regarding successful activities and interactions last year. Amidst HISD cutbacks, PTO worked successfully with teachers and students. President Naidoo meets regularly with Principal Perry to continually explore ways in which PTO can assist/support for teachers and other staff.

September 17th at 6:30 p.m. will be the first PTO General meeting for the 2019-2020 school year. Parents University/Varsity may also take place the same night (good potential for attendance). September Board meeting will also occur on the 17th (due to Open House being held in September). Otherwise, Board meetings will normally occur on 2nd Tuesday. Board/PTO Meeting schedule for 2019/2020 school year is as follows:

September 17 (Board and General meeting)

October 1 – Board

October 8 – General

December 2 – Board

January tbd – Open House

February 4 – Board

February 11 - General

April 7 - Board

April 14 – General

Holiday lunch will be scheduled for a date in early December

Discussion followed regarding PTO participation rates – 216 families currently in PTO Friends of DeBakey (Kathleen) will also need this information (archiving contacts). Ott Spot (or a similar tool) will pull/store data.

Uniform Update: School Hoodies and spirit shirts are ready for pick up. Paul Ake negotiated a great price on logo shirts and skirts from The Children's Place. Delivery costs (~ \$300 - \$400) additional savings as Paul volunteered to pick up the shipment. Nellie will have check cut to The Children's Place. 50% deposit due now with balance due September 1st.

Discussion regarding jacket sales and campus-wide campaign for new Spirit shirt designs. Sales should begin in the Fall (around October). Further discussion regarding designs will be on the Agenda for October Board meeting. Unanimous decision for jacket pre-sales. PTO to come up with three potential designs for each grade. Student council can then vote, majority rule, for selected design. If necessary, PTO Board will break any tie votes.

Volunteers!! Several volunteers are needed for Uniform sales, August 19 – 23. Students will be on campus for schedule/laptop pick up beginning at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Volunteers should be at DeBakey not later than 7:30 a.m. to assist with sales in the Flex Lab. Custodial staff needs layout for Flex Lab during uniform sale a.s.a.p. (by August 9th, if possible). Meals will be provided for volunteers. Student volunteers have historically been quite helpful. Students generally help with sizing; they should not handle payments. We have just one card reader. Paul will man the card reader; Nichole, Rachel (and other adult volunteers) will handle the cash. No checks will be accepted and there is a fee for credit card. School will send out a reminder. Andie will also send out a reminder with pricing and notice of % add on for credit card sales. Discussion followed regarding inventory and prior sales statistics. Paul should be given last year's inventory list for purposes of comparison/ordering.

Fundraising – Discussion tabled pending President meeting with Fundraising chair (Regina).

Budget – Cindy missed the last Board meeting. Nellie will prepare and send budget update in advance for review/approval at the next Board meeting.

Goals/General Discussion:

College Night – Two lists were circulated at the last Board meeting: Invited Colleges and Colleges that registered. Board needs to review schools that actually participated with a goal of enhancing/increasing the list of invitees.

Medical scholarships should be solicited from Texas schools – DeBakey is the #1 nationally for medical/health professions. Need to ensure colleges/universities are investing in our students.

Fish Camp – There have been discussions with Principal Perry about resuming/recreating Fish Camp. Ongoing and Nellie will meet soon with Ms. Perry for final decision.

1st Day of School – Coffee, donuts and fruit for parents during drop off – PTO continuing this tradition.

Homeroom – General discussion regarding appropriate use/topics for discussion in homeroom. Issue of interest/concern in education is Vaping. Parents need to be educated on this.

Basketball – Decision needed regarding hiring of coaches and/or referees.

Girls Who Code Club – funding may be available (at no cost to DeBakey), depending on interest/participation.

Be thinking of potential topics/guest speakers for future General PTO meetings.

2022 – 50th Anniversary – Start thinking of ideas to celebrate/reconnect with DeBakey alums for planning.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.