



Davis Drive Middle School
Executive PTA Board Minutes
November, 17 2009

Paige Mizak, Karen Laing, Ginny Paisie, Lisa Phillips, Karen Bainbridge, Karen Summers, Eric Bethel, Holly Caskey, Stacey Gill, Christine Hill, Molly Hegeman, Nancy Caggia and Frank Laney.

- I. Welcome & Call to Order – 7:05 pm
- II. Presenting & Approval of the October 12, 2009 Minutes - – Copies of minutes of October 12, 2009 minutes of the Executive Board Meeting were provided for review.
 - A. Motion to approve the October 12 minutes of the Executive Board Meeting.
 - i. Moved by Lisa Phillips
 - ii. Seconded by Karen Bainbridge
 - iii. Passed unanimously.
- III. Principal's Report – Welcome to Eric Bethel. – Started 11/2. Coming from Wakefield HS – before that in NJ and NY. Diverse education and background. Admin degree from UNC. Looking forward to meeting families. Eric has been working with Mike Oster in reference to website. Working on PLT information on site. Downloaded all Wednesday agendas to website. Can see all teacher activities from Wednesday PLTs.
 - A. Wednesday PAW wall – painted by 8th grade students. Adding a slogan to the wall on what the teachers are working on when students are not here. Expecting to have the wall ready by Christmas break. Mike Oster is open for suggestions for website. Looking for a way to move the PTA link up higher on screen.
 - B. BAC meeting at Highcroft – discussed standards based grading for middle and high school students. Parents voiced concerns at meeting.
 - a. At DDMS, teachers working with colleagues on standard course of study. Working to ensure consistency in teaching of topic. Fluid line of teaching/learning regardless of teacher delivering material. Mapping out plan to deliver standard course of study for each unit. Teachers are working together to share resources and ensure that what's occurring in other classrooms is consistent. In addition, teachers are aligning how they are grading the work that is produced by the students. Start with standard course of study to map out what we want the kids to learn. Teachers then having discussions on grading weights. Each teacher within a grade and a subject have the same weights. Across grades, the weights may not be the same for a given subject due to different requirements/expectations of different grade levels. Teachers are developing tests together for consistency. Great conversations taking place among teachers about how they are grading. Quarterly meetings with teachers to ask how the teachers are grading. Meeting last night at BAC considering grading at middle and high school levels like at the elementary school (1, 2, 3, 4). Impact to college admissions. Aligning curriculum to testing. Data team at every middle school (5 teachers and an administrator) to analyze. Give zeroes or not. Take out work habits or not. Schools are experimenting as a whole on these items and some teachers are experimenting as individuals. Planned to bring Ken O'Connor in to be

a consultant for the county, but budget cuts squashed that. PLTs are what we're doing here. For this year, pick one person (James Akins) to be our data analysis rep for DDMS. He represents our school in the discussions. BAC said schools were supposed to be talking with parents. May need a PTA parent rep talking with James Akins so that he is representing not only teachers, but also parents' viewpoint. PLT is a goal within school improvement team. Nancy Caggia will be this parent rep. Cannot take high schools off the ABC practice, as it is a state policy. DDMS plan is moving forward and making progress towards the consistency in teaching and grading.

- C. Very appreciative of hospitality support of the staff! Monday is celebration of Teacher of the year. Unveiling on Monday at 7:30. Giving the recipient \$100 gift card. PTA providing bagels. Teacher nominated. Mr. Niles (8th grade science), Mr. Harris (8th grade science), Mr. Dams (6th grade math) are the nominees.
- D. Academically Gifted teacher (Deborah Thomas) no longer with DDMS. Looking at an internal candidate. Must have certification to perform this. If staffed before January 25, the candidate must have 6 credit hours by June. If staffed on January 25, the candidate will have 1.5 years to get the 6 credit hours. May not have this position filled until January 25. January 25 is the latest it will be staffed. Will announce as soon as this is filled.

IV. Treasury Report –

- A. Budget available. Still waiting on numbers from fundraiser to finalize budget. Budget will be changed for fundraiser if we can get resolution with JH Distributors on discrepancy. Hope to have the numbers from the fundraiser by Monday, November 23.
- B. Propose a change to the standing rules to modify the statement that we only have 1 fundraiser a year. Would like to propose another fundraising option. NCPTA and NC School Board introducing Furtal – go to a site and get 3 to 20% back to school. (Similar to linking your VIC card.) A “no fuss” fundraiser. Get the parents used to a different fundraiser. Would need to modify the wording of the standing rules. Panther PROWL nights being proposed. Hoping to have a monthly PROWL night at the same location. Want to add to “no fuss” fundraiser to budget. Will help with shortfall. List income as \$200, even though that is low.
- C. Motion to add a monthly “no fuss” fundraiser PROWL night line item to the budget.
 - i. Moved by Nancy Caggia
 - ii. Seconded by Molly Hegeman
 - iii. Passed unanimously
- D. One line item in budget, but treasurer can track individual “no fuss” items such as Furtal or PROWL nights, etc. Motion passed unanimously. Must have the budget approved by general membership before we can communicate / advertise the Furtal program. Will have a general membership meeting 15 minutes before the Dance/Orchestra program on Monday, November 23. Lisa Phillips will send out Yahoo notification tonight to general membership. We can carry over \$200 to teacher start up.

V. Committee Reports:

VI. 1st VP – No update.

VII. Legislative – See information from Principal's report above.

VIII. General Business

IX. Save the Teens seminar – lots of information. Mr. Echols has the information distributed, and can share with any interested. Another session will be offered in February at Green Hope HS.

- X. Newsletter – sent home with kids. New way of delivery.
- XI. Coffee with Karen – Wednesday, November 18 – will cover the same topics discussed tonight. Have had good turnout at prior meetings with Karen.
- XII. Cancelling December 15 PTA meeting.
- XIII. Anyone who wants to dispose of leaves, bring them to school, bagged or unbagged and leave them between parking lot and Davis Drive. Will be used as mulch in flowerbeds.