

**DBS PTO Meeting**  
**December 11, 2014**  
**6-7 p.m.**

*Whoops! "Start Broadcast" was never hit for livestreaming on YouTube.  
We are sorry for the error!*

1. Welcome and introductions: Rick Dustin-Eichler, Shevie Brooks, Jodie Davi, Susan Knapp, Jaime Peyton, Jen Krom, Marty Irvine, Tim Irvine
2. We need ideas for spring fundraiser(s). The PTO is trying to raise \$9000 for new sound system for the DBS gym; this will be a multi-year campaign goal.
  - We have \$734 currently in our account; current fundraisers already planned for winter/spring include Dartmouth Hockey concessions, Family Movie Night tip jars; Yard Sale.
  - Last year our spring Yankee Candle fundraiser made about \$4,000 – we'd like to try something new.
  - Other ideas: DBS school spirit wear; beach towels; seeds; fundraiser days at local businesses (restaurants, hair salons, Tip Top pottery, Big Fatty's, EBAs, celebrity waiter night); donation for bike tune-ups in the spring; cash campaign; Vital Communities.
  - Jen K. will go thru fundraiser mailings for additional ideas.
  - We'll try to finalize specific initiatives at January meeting.
3. Other PTO updates:
  - New PTO officers will be needed as our current board is finishing 2-year term in May.
  - One or more current officers will consider staying on, either as repeat officer or as consultant to maintain continuity.
  - Need new parents to step forward.
4. Updates from Mr. D.:
  - Mr. D. wrote an essay to Hypertherm and received grant money for Imagination Playground blocks. The goal is to create an elementary school Maker Space. We currently have sample-scale version of the blue foam blocks in the library (Montshire Museum has a set of the full-size blocks). Still have outstanding grant application(s) to get more. DBS has other outstanding grant applications include kits for Lego and Lego Robotics and origami curriculum. These all support STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) curriculum at DBS.
  - Hartford is starting a school district foreign language committee. Chris Putnam-Pouliot will be DBS parent member. DBS one of the few school districts in VT that does NOT offer foreign language instruction. Cathy Newton is head of committee (also Director of Curriculum Instruction for Hartford School District).
  - November Family Movie Night was a success, lots of fun! "How To Train Your Dragon 2" shown in music room; "Frozen" shown in gym with new screen! More than \$100 made from tip jar during intermission.
  - Vermont Public Radio aired a DBS story (listen online at <http://digital.vpr.net/post/be-good-school-and-earn-some-bucks> ) It was about PBIS, Otter Bucks, Golden Paw awards, and it featured Mrs. Pfeiffer's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class.
  - The Vermont Secretary of Education visited DBS right before Thanksgiving for a short video that will appear on cable access television.
  - Winter Concert was great! Kudos to Ms Moon for a fantastic job! PTO rented 600 seats, and it was SRO (standing room only).
5. Upcoming PTO Activities
  - Dartmouth Hockey concessions stand on Fri. Jan 30 and Sat. Feb 28, 2015.

- Family Movie Night on January 23 AND March 20, 2015 – January date will also be 100-Day Celebration.
  - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week May 4-8, 2015. Marty Irvine and Jen Durgin have volunteered to head the organizing committee. DBS apparently has a huge “We Love our Staff” sign out by garage; Tim Irvine will check it out and perhaps help with repairs if needed.
  - Ideas for future Parent Workshops:
    - January 2015 – New attendance policy voted in by school board yesterday; Need to discuss consequences, solutions
    - February – Invite superintendent to discuss budget
    - March – STEM, engineering workshop
    - April – TBD
    - May – The new science standardized test
  - Amahl & the Night Visitors; children’s opera at Lebanon Opera House, December 20 @ 5 and 7 pm, December 21 @ 2 pm; FREE for all kids with paying adult!
6. Upcoming DBS Activities:
- Read Across America Day, Wednesday March 4. DBS is looking for LOTS of parent volunteers. They are turning each classroom into a Dr. Seuss book. Lanni West (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) is in charge.
  - Drama Club performance of “Annie Jr.” (grades 4 and 5) is on February 5
  - Thank you to DBS and Jen Krom from The Family Place for gingerbread village; Festival was Saturday December 13
  - Brain O’Mania – no date set yet
7. Discussion of proposed revision of DBS PTO Bylaws:
- Simplify, streamline the bylaws to better reflect the current makeup of the group.
  - No revisions since 2009.
  - We will vote to accept (or not) the revised document at January 8, 2015 meeting.