

April 9, 2015

DBS PTO Meeting Minutes

Dothan Brook School, Hartford, VT

6-7 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Tessa Johnson, Heidi St Peter, Marty Irvine, Sue Knapp, Jen Krom, Jodie Davi, Jaime Peyton, Rick Dustin-Eichler, Jen Durgin
2. Treasurer's Report: Aim is to ensure that next year's PTO Board will have \$3,000 as of June 30 to start the next school year.
3. Upcoming PTO and DBS Activities:

CASH DONATION CAMPAIGN: Those in attendance decided to hold the envelope campaign until next fall when the new board can make a concerted effort to solicit cash donations in lieu of participating in fundraising activities. These donations would be earmarked to support the upgrade to the gymnasium audio/visual equipment. The next phase is to improve the sound system. The PTO currently has about \$1,500 toward the \$9,000 it will cost to upgrade the sound system. Efforts will be made to help parents and others in the DBS community understand why this is needed and beneficial to the school and the kids. (Solicitation letter already drafted and will be given to the new board later this spring.) The new board might also consider launching a GoFundMe site for online donations. This will launch in fall 2015, and hopefully will have the necessary funds by spring 2016.

YARD SALE and TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION: There was discussion to iron out some details and finalize planning for these two events.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: The DBS PTO will host the June 4 event at DBS at 6:30 p.m. We will also have the drawing for our VIP (Volunteer Incentive Program) to raffle off a prize.

FIELD DAY: DBS PTO helped support getting every kid a t-shirt for the June 11 event organized by PE teacher Melanie Canfield.

4. DBS needs a new Walk 'n Ride Coordinator – email Rick if interested. Brigid Lynch is still in charge this spring and next spring, but need someone for Fall 2015; Jen Durgin is interested.
5. Tessa Johnson agreed to continue to help with the Labels for Education programs as long Mrs Torrey and 5th graders will continue to cut/count.
6. PTO NEEDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS! We will vote on new board members at the May PTO meeting. There was a discussion to encourage people to step up and volunteer to lead the efforts for the next term.
7. Miscellaneous new business: Retirements: Mr. Hill, janitorial, and Mrs Thompson, 4th grade – DBS PTO will coordinate to do something to honor these two people.
8. Parent Workshop: STEM Initiatives with Mr. D.

Common Core has an emphasis on engineering; our computer lab is phasing out in favor of mobile carts and iPads or Chromebooks; hope to turn space into maker space or tinkering lab type of space; Lego robotics = icon programming workshops; spatial reasoning program is funded by 3-year grant; Lego robots will start in library time, we have grants, would like to raise \$7000 more to get more kits and re-do lab; corporate sponsorships are encouraged also; Mr. D handed out an article by Mitchel Resnick (@MIT) that promotes play and cooperative learning.