George M Davis Elementary School ••• PTA Meeting (via Zoom) ••• Tuesday Oct 12th, 2021

**Attendees**: \*\**see page 3 for complete list of persons in attendance (virtually)*

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Principal’s Report:** Mr. Bambrola welcomed & thanked PTA & volunteers for events so far in the year, noted that the year has gotten off to a really great start, that they will continue to stay attentive to students needing more support in some areas and asked that parents continue to engage with himself & Ms. Marinaro when needed; also discussed plans for ReThink, noting a survey will go out which will help shape the curriculum for the year; Ms. Marinaro said a few words regarding the Caring Circle series and lunchtime; shared story of group of students who were trying to imagine ways to appreciate the effort of lunchtime crew, and another group that used their writing to suggest improvements to lunchtime program which is wonderful to see. Mr Bambrola also noted updates will be coming from the district soon regarding more specifics around Covid testing, virtual engagement, among other things.
2. **Introduction of Executive Board:** April gave quick overview of Executive Board Members (see list of Attendees for names/roles)
	* **Budget Report** Cathy provided high level overview of expected fundraising & expenses, noting it is hard to truly see a year to year picture given that the last two school years were not normal and complete in terms of fundraising and PTA expenditures; the following questions were asked:

- Mr. Vasandani asked why lunchtime alternatives is so high compared to last year; April provided color on what falls into the category and clarified that last year we were not unable to run these programs so they spend was very low

- Melissa Liebowitz asked about after school scholarships, which PTA does have money to fund, Mr. Bambrola clarified we’re hoping to begin running them in January this year

- Alexandra Coscia asked why 5th grade programs appeared higher this year; In reality it’s just a matter of formatting – in the past the spend was split out into a few different line items (broadway, yearbook, 5th transportation) and this year we’ve grouped it all into one

- Amy K asked for total fundraising from last two years to understand whether we are doing more or less than normal; specific numbers can be found in budget sent out by PTA but this year we are consistent with normal years (last year excluded)

April requested budget approval; Rosemary Castillo motioned to approve, and Jen Soberman seconded the motion thereby approving the PTA budget for 21/22 school year

* + **Membership Report** Daniela provided update that we are currently at 244 members toward our 300 goal, which is excellent; [ to join, visit [www.davispta.org/membership](http://www.davispta.org/membership) ]

Rosemary asked for history of PTA membership track (do we typically hit our goal early or throughout year); Typically we only reach about 200 by the end of the year Alexis Lucente noted we surpassed 300 but that was 4 years ago); Rosemary and Daniela will discuss (offline) possible strategies to continue to increase our numbers

- Serena asked on chat if finances are a barrier, which Jen S responded that families can sponsor another family by purchasing an additional membership

* + **SEPTA update**: Sarah Desimini, our SEPTA rep, shared that SEPTA had their first meeting of the year and focused heavily on parent engagement, particularly reaching parents of children who either don’t have special needs or don’t have obvious special needs, as they host great workshops helpful to all parents [ to join, visit <https://newrosepta.memberhub.com/store> ]
	+ **PTAC update**: April shared that PTAC is focusing heavily on encouraging more community building / team, in-person meetings, and resource & idea sharing between PTAs across district; also communicated that PTAC is a great way for PTAs to bubble up ideas, questions, etc to the NR superintendent
	+ **Trunk or Treat** Fran G presented overview of Trunk or Treat which will be held on Friday October 29th, in the back of the school (this will be place of the Halloween Party which current restrictions prohibit us from holding indoors this year); in addition to trunk or treating there will be a DJ, games, and crafts. Pre-registration would be appreciated to ensure we have enough supplies for all. Melissa L asked how she can get involved – Fran will be sending out a signup genius to both volunteer your car and/or your time for the event. Also note if you do not have a car or would just prefer to leave it home you can do a table setup as well. You can also reach out directly to Fran or to the Davis PTA at DavisPTANewRo@gmail.com ; Eileen Horowitz also offered to host a Team Pumpkin Project table

Two additional questions around rain date (unfortunately due to permit restrictions we do not have a rain date) and whether event is open to non-davis students (yes! Again preregistration would greatly help

* + **Justin Sherman** of JustinTime Baseball is spending Wednesdays at Davis working with students over recess to develop skills that promote independence, conflict resolution, helping navigate playground, and showing them that when a conflict occurs in kickball, gaga, etc, the game will stop until they can figure out how to resolve it; April emphasized Justin is charged with working with ALL students, including those standing on the sidelines or playing on their own. PTA has Justin working on a trial basis through December and are hoping to see a positive impact and be able to continue further into the year (tracking kickball incidents before/after), and Ms. Marinaro noted our lunch monitors are also getting great mentoring by watching him, as an added bonus
	+ **Open Committees and Executive Board Position** The Davis PTA is looking for a co-President to work with April, if interested please reach out to DavisPTANewRo@gmail.com

We also have open positions on the following committees – these were opened in May but could use more help, and want to ensure new families are informed – if interested in any please email the PTA!

* Trunk or Treat
* Food Truck Fundraisers
* Movie Night
* Spiritwear
* Readathon
* Bingo Night
* Spring Book Fair
* Heritage Dinner
* Plant Sale
* Auditing Committee (to double check PTA books every few months)
1. **School of Excellence Surveys:** April will be sending out a survey this week, please take a few minutes to fill it out! PTA will sponsor a grade-level competition to encourage participation, the grade that returns the most surveys will win a popcorn or popsicle party
2. **Q&A**:
* **A question was asked as to whether we will be holding a class parent meeting**; Nikki Spillman (Class Parent Coordinator) confirmed yes but that she and Deanna are still working on filling about 10 classes who still don’t have any volunteers for Lead/Class Parents
* **A question was asked as to whether there will be a 5th grade dance**; unfortunately we cannot yet predict what regulations will allow for the reminder of the year but the administration, staff, and PTA are all dedicated to making sure this years 5th graders have a truly memorable year
* **Alexis Lucente shared a quick update on spirit wear** and thanked everyone for patience as we encounter the same delays many in the industry seem to be facing; we are hopeful that new supplier and new approach will help avoid issues like this in the future
* **A parent asked whether Computers will return to CAMPEL;** Anthony responded that we’re unsure yet when it will be formally back in CAMPEL schedule, but our IT team will be pushing into classrooms to support the students in other ways

\*\*Attendees (names as listed on Zoom):

*Executive Board*:

April DiPippo, *President*

Jen Soberman, *VP Technology/Social Media/Communication*

Daniela Rizzetta, *VP, Membership*

Cathy Plante, *Treasurer, Accounts Payable*

Fran Guglielmo, *Treasurer, Accounts Receivable*

Lindsay Califano, *Secretary*

Anthony Bambrola, *Principal*

Laurie Marinaro, *Assistant Principal*

Alexis Lucente

Alana Davis

Alexandra Coscia

Alison Brown

Amy K

Angele Nisbett-Richards

Antonia Fusco

Ashley Geveda

Brian & Kristina Vasandani

Bridget Cymbrowitz

Carolyn Fay

Eileen Horowitz

Christine Pugni

Dana Tettamanti

Danielle Galvin

Erica Kelly

Eva Salvador

Fiona Russo

“iPhone”

Jacqueline Fiore

Jenna Dedic

John DiPippo

Kathryn Goldstein

Kelly Stineman

Marilemia Frias

Marissa Riotto

Martins Family

Melissa Liebowitz

“Michelle”

Monica Sharma

Nickeya Spillman

Rebecca Halperin

Rebecca Lippel

Rosemary Castillo

Sara Desimini

Sheena Koshy

“Simeon”

Susan Daron

Tara Ciscone

Tara Mcevoy

“Tiffany”

Tiffany Andrande

“Violet”