

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15th, 2018 5:45-8:00 pm

Location: Ceri and Ezra Beeman's Home

334 I St, Davis

In Attendance:

See Sign Up Sheet

Meeting started at approx. 6:20pm and was Led by Gina Murphy

Parent Council News:

Gina brought up the topic of a PC social event for December. There will be no meeting in December. After some discussion the agreement that the PC and any other parents will meet on December 14th at 7pm. Please send ideas on a location, to Gina. One suggestion was "Our House" in Davis for drinks and appetizers.

Class Announcements:

Gina-4th Grade Class

Gina discussed the 4th grade's recent trip to Monterey. It was for their human/animal block. They camped at the Veterans Memorial, and spent 3 full days exploring Monterey. They started the trip with a visit to the Natural History Museum, then the Monarch Butterfly Habitat. Day 2 was the Mission @ San Juan Bautista, where they explored the mission. Finally Day 3 was spent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where they had a private behind the scenes class.

Tracey- 5th Grade Class

Tracey shared the newsletter that the 5th grade class did, they are producing one each week. It includes social information, sports, opinions of the children, art, and class news. This week it was about gratitude and you can obtain a copy in the office.

Maria-2nd Grade Class

Maria let everyone know that the teacher is having the students in the 2nd grade come home with one news item each day to share with their parents.

Michelle-7th Grade Class

Christmas trees have been ordered, they will be ready for pick up or delivered on 12/06/18 to the school. Parents can pick up after school on 12/7/18 or at craft day on 12/08/18. Dan made the suggestion to rent a U-haul to pick up the trees and also to secure them over night.

Community Talk

Sex Ed and Puberty Curriculum

Ceri shared information about the Sexuality, Gender and Technology talk by Lisa Romero she went to Sacramento Waldorf with several other parents and teachers. Jenn indicated that the school is working on having her come to DWS in the spring.

Lisa Romero discussed birth to 17/18 year olds. In her opinion puberty and sex-ed should come at different times. It was discussed that DWS does not have a policy on puberty and sex-ed currently and it is left up to the teacher to decide how to handle these topics. Some people believed that these topics are not being handled properly and equally for the boys and the girls.

After some discussion it was determined that currently the school brings this topic in 7th grade. And the parents at the meeting believed this might be too late to discuss puberty. It was also discussed that public

schools, locally do sex-ed education in 7th grade. PC has made an action item for the board to give more consistent structure for the teachers in regards to puberty and sex-ed.

Media Typing

Christine asked about when the students of DSW will learn to type. Ceri indicated there was a plan in middle school and that she would report back about this.

Childcare/Baby Sitting

The idea was brought up that when school is closed that if there are older children that can babysit, or a parent that can offer childcare in their home, we use the Friends of Davis Waldorf Facebook page.

PC Meeting Information and Minutes

The suggestion was made that at the class meetings, the class parents provide an overview of the PC meetings, and encourage other parents to come to the PC meetings. Sharing the information of what is going on with the PC might also be helpful to the teachers.

Loss of 3 children in 1st grade

It was brought up by Mary Norris that the 1st grade class lost 3 students already this year. It was discussed that maybe 2 of the 3 children were not ready for 1st grade. Suggestion was made during the discussion that 2nd grade parents mentor 1st grade parents, similar to the 1st grade/8th grade buddy system. More parent education/ information is needed for the 1st grade parents that some children need 3 years of kindergarten and the benefits of the 3 years.

Board Update

- Budget has been finalized for our current fiscal year.
- January and February board meetings will include discussion about the tuition for next year. Board meetings are open to all DSW parents.
- Diversity committee needs assistance. They need a chair and 2-3 additional people to help get the committee going.
- Policy regarding the air quality is being developed, it needs to include when will the school close and at what level is considered unsafe. Any feedback that a parent has should be shared with Christine soon, as they are working on the policy now. It was also suggested that we check the "Spare the Air" levels because some days during the summer the air might be unhealthy but we are not as aware because there is no smoke. An idea was made for each class to spend an hour in the NPR to give them a break from their room, when they are required to stay indoors when the air is bad.

Strategic Plan

Ceri went over the Achievements from the 2013-2017 Strategic Plan. Then it was discussed what the goals of the PC and the school for the Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. Ceri shared a rough draft goal sheet for the PC, with listed. After some additional discussion some notes from our conversations were added as well.

The goals are:

1. Maintain PC leadership team with lead positions filled
2. Establish a parent education committee to research needs and plan events such as Waldorf 101, book study, composting classes, curriculum, etc. What else are the parents interested in or want?
3. Establish a welcoming committee to contact new families at the school

4. Establish an events committee which plans and holds community building events (oversees shed) Community outreach, like clothing exchange, co-ordinate Waldorf 100 event, community dinner, farmers market outreach, etc.
5. Establish (or support Board's) development fundraising committee
6. Support Board marketing committee
7. Support Board retention committee

Ceri asked Jenn what the school would like the PC to help with and take more control of. Her response included item #5, for fundraising being the biggest need of the school. The school needs the PC to drive more of the fundraising for the school. The school needs more parents driving the annual auction. Jenn is working on organizing a committee for the auction, and she can always use more people to help with that. Community outreach, #4 would be her 2nd main priority for the school.

Ceri would like you to review the list above and give feedback as to what the priority of the goals should be for the PC in your opinion.

Administrative Update

Faculty Meeting Hospitality

Class Parents - Jenn asked that you be sure that you are getting signups for food and for set up. It is the classes responsibility to set up and provide food. If there are special instructions from Jenn, please be sure the class is aware of that.

Winter Spiral

Reminder that it is open to everyone. Friday the 30th is for the grades, then December 1st for kindergarten.

Reminder

The Winter Concert is on December 7th and is at the Davis High School. And that Family Craft day is on December 8th.

Annual Giving

End of Annual Giving is on December 7th. Class parents should please push for 100% participation. Jenn would also like to offer another \$250 gift for the class that reaches the highest percentage of their goal. The money would need to be given by the PC or some other source since it was not allocated in the budget.

Action Items:

- Please send Mary Norris any pictures you have on field trips or other school events. She handles the Instagram page and would like more content.
- Bring to the Board: PC believes that we need a consistent structure for teachers in regards to puberty and sex-ed.
- Jenn to add that the diversity committee needs a chair and 2-3 additional people to assist the chair.
- If a parent has an item to be added to the PC meeting agenda, please send those to Gina the Monday one week before the meeting. The suggestion was made for class parents to reach out the week before and have the agenda items due the Friday before they are due to Gina, so you have time to get them to her.
- Kelly to put parent volunteer sheets on Excel so they can be organized and we can reach out to parents that have listed items they are interested in.

- From the volunteer list, we will reach out to parents that are interested in PC leadership and invite them to the next PC meeting.
- At next PC meeting go over the calendar of events for the upcoming year to discuss what items the PC will be helping with.
- Parent Welcome committee may reach out to their parents one last time if they would like to see how the beginning of the year is going, invite them to PC meetings, and see if they would like to discuss anything.
- Gina has requested that when she sends Class Parents correspondence in regards to PC, that Class Parents confirm they received the email and cc her when they forward it to their class. This will help her make sure all classes are getting meeting notices, agendas, minutes, etc.
- Please review the Strategic Plan goals for the PC and give feedback to Ceri on what you believe should be the main priorities for PC.