

DALLIN PTO MEETING
December 7, 2022 at 8 am, Dallin Cafeteria

In attendance: Joe Solomon, Kara Baskin, Sally LeGore-Nusholtz, Autumn Bouck, Jaclyn Kaster, Audrey Robert Ramirez, Jaime Fisher, Emily Manove, Janine Sarignano, Rina Zelmann, Paula Dimattia, Stacie Greenland, Sam Karustis

1. **Welcome** (Joe) and introductions
2. **Minutes Approval** (PTO Board): October 2022 meeting minutes approved
3. **Annual Fund Update** (Joe/Autumn)
 - a. We have **met our fundraising goal and raised \$15,514**. A total of 74 families donated, averaging \$150 per donation
 - b. Looking forward, we hope to increase participation and brainstormed: 1) providing incentives to donate, 2) suggesting smaller donation amounts, 3) offering a list of the cost of activities/materials so families have a clearer understanding of the value of the donation
 - c. Reminder to families **shopping on amazon**: Select Dallin Elementary PTO on amazon smile and a portion of proceeds will be donated to Dallin
 - d. **Shop at Maxima in Arlington Center on Friday 12/9/22** and mention Dallin at checkout. 15% of proceeds will be donated to Dallin.
 - e. **Buy a meal at BlueRibbon in Arlington on 12/14/22** and mention Dallin at checkout. A portion of proceeds will be donated to Dallin.
4. **Spring Auction Update** (Jaime)
 - a. **Save the date: May 19, 2023!** We are planning a community event at Arlington Town Hall involving a silent auction, food and drinks and fun for all. Similar events were held pre Covid, and we hope to resurrect this popular and memorable event. This will be a nice way for families to connect and engage and we are hoping to build a core of volunteers to help with planning.
 - b. In the past, families have helped secure donations, including for example: free weeks at local camps, principal/art teacher for the day, free consultation with a professional (architect), yoga classes, Boys & Girls Club membership
 - c. This will be in lieu of winter auction
5. **Ongoing Volunteer Needs** (Sally)
 - a. Needing **drop off helpers** – contact Sam Karustis. Two parents are currently handling this and it is not sustainable. This involves arriving being at Dallin from 7:40-8am. Quick and easy volunteer opportunity!

- b. Looking for volunteers to take over **Dallin Digest** – Mike to document the process and provide job description
- c. **Teacher Appreciation Week** planning: proposing each grade level take on a day and come up with a theme for the day. Past activities have involved breakfast, potluck lunch, ice cream, and very popular with the teachers: kids writing words re: teachers. This can be accomplished through a google form sent out to families asking them to write notes from students for teachers/staff
- d. **Lost & found** coordinator – **Families have until 12/16/22 to collect Items** in lost & found. After that, items will be collected and donated.
- e. **Hourglass** – Looking for a volunteer to work with 5th graders to edit and publish literary magazine in the Spring.
- f. **Visual arts liaison** - Stacie Greenland seeks a volunteer to coordinate art class volunteers, help with the visual art show and post updates in the Digest
- g. **Dallin Directory** – help will be needed over the summer to prepare the directory for the school year
- h. **Planning community events** – if you're interested in community events such as game nights, movie night, pancake breakfast, spring picnic, please contact the PTO. Community events can only happen with the help of volunteers like you!

6. **DEIG Update** (Audrey)

- a. **Family culture night** in November was a success thanks in great part to Heidi Rosenberg and families that participated
- b. A Dallin rep, Katie Forster, attended town-wide meeting last week. Notes to be shared once available
- c. **Parents raising kids of color group** plans to relaunch in January/February. Look out for more information – new members welcome.
- d. **DEIG library** - could use some more books in our little library, especially upper elementary/middle grade options. Please deliver to Susan Burns as a record of collection is kept.
- e. Potential follow-up with Claire, town planning director, re: a forum to discuss multi-dwelling housing in Arlington and near MBTA stations.

7. **Holiday Appreciation Ideas** (Audrey)

- a. Pies in November were greatly appreciated.
- b. Brainstorming ideas for December: Cookies for teachers/staff to grab and go. Homemade through family donations or storebought? Provide containers for teachers to transport cookies home.

8. **PTO Meeting Format/Planning** (Joe)

- a. Discussion re: increasing attendance at PTO meetings; proposal to move meetings to Friday; including a PTO business portion at the start and then launching into content address curriculum, survey data
9. Open Forum (All)
- a. **STEAM themed game night:** aiming for January 27, 2023 at Dallin in person. Save the date; call for volunteers to follow.
 - b. PTO generally provides food for teachers at evening conference in January. Conferences are on January 10-11, 2023.
 - c. Request to buy a reusable banner for the book fair
10. Close (Joe)