

PTA General Meeting Agenda
September 17, 2020
7:00pm via Zoom

I. Introduction:

A. Call to order and Welcome - **7:05 PM**

B. Presentation of 20-21 E-Board Officers

1. Christine Poulos, President
2. Leah Peckerman, Vice President; Fundraiser Chair
3. Jessi Rausch, Vice President; Enrichment Chair
4. Cecilia Sienra, Vice President; Development and Transition Chair
5. Rosanna Scarpati, Treasurer
6. Maca Rodriuez, Secretary; Diversity and Inclusion Chair
7. Julie Uribe, Secretary; Member Outreach and Communications Chair

II. Guest Speaker - DWS Principal, Mrs. Isabel McGinley

- **Principal McGinley gave a brief introduction covering the following items:**

- **Professional work experience**
- **1:1 device initiative (all students Pre-K through 12 now have a dedicated device)**
- **Health Requirements - masks will be worn at all times, social distancing (6' apart), increased hand sanitizing & handwashing, temperature sensors installed at main entrance**
- **Please remember to have patience and kindness. We will make adjustments as we go to streamline our virtual learning process.**

A. Brief Q&A (please submit questions via chat feature on Zoom meeting)

1. **Will the children (including Pre-K) be required to wear masks 100% of the time?**
 - a) **Yes. They will be allowed to remove masks during snack time and gym when social distancing is possible.**
 - b) **Parents are encouraged to have extra masks available in the event they lose one, or in the case of cloth masks so they can be washed between uses.**
 - c) **The PTA has provided the school with backup masks in the event needed.**
2. **How long will classes be held as ½ days?**
 - a) **Class schedules will remain ½ when returning to school. The days have been broken into parts - 8:20 - 12:36 followed by lunchtime/recess. The last segment, 2:00-2:50 is for special sessions, assessments, & small groups.**
 - b) **Daily cleaning will be conducted at school while the afternoon sessions are taking place. For this reason teachers are encouraged to leave after the morning session to address these classes from their homes.**

3. How will the teachers teach both in person and virtually for the hybrid schedule?
 - a) Teachers will be on live stream through the morning session. The afternoon session will remain for additional support for those that need it. These sessions should be pre-scheduled with the teacher.
 - b) Teachers for the remote only cohort will not see students on the premises at any point and will conduct all classes virtually. The students will continue to complete the classes in the same way they have been.
4. When we return to school, will children have to complete anything when they come home in half days?
 - a) The work will be consistent with the current process held by the teacher.
5. Are there plans to reinstate after-care?
 - a) No. After-care and lunch programs have been suspended.
6. Can I drive my child to school instead of taking the bus?
 - a) Yes. The bus is still an option but the choice is left to the parent's discretion. Please remember that traffic is often hectic and parking near the school is very limited.
7. Should parents stay with children at drop-off?
 - a) Yes. All children have their temperatures taken at arrival. If a child has a fever above 100.5 they will not be admitted into the school.
 - b) If you stay at the curb when dropping off your child, remain close by with your phone on in case your child is not admitted.
8. How does the lunch program work while the children are remote?
 - a) The lunch program is consistent for all students. If your child is eligible for free or reduced lunch, you will be able to order it in advance but will need to pick it up at one of the designated lunch kiosks. A lunch kiosk will be available at each school. (Further details to come).
9. The email regarding the lunch program says everyone should fill out the form, is that correct?
 - a) Yes, the state expects all families to submit the completed form.
10. What is the protocol for a child who tests positive for COVID?
 - a) If a child is in school and presents symptoms, the child will be moved to isolation, parents will be contacted and directed to take the child for testing. Once confirmed, they will conduct contact tracing in accordance and conjunction with the Department of Health.

- b) Parents will be notified of all children with whom that child came in contact with based on the directives of the Department of Health and those children will then need to be tested.
 - c) All further steps will be taken based on the recommendations of the Department of Health.
- 11. So if a teacher was exposed, will there be a sub for the class while the teacher is isolating?
 - a) Yes. All substitutes will follow the same health requirements in accordance with the Department of Health.
- 12. Will teacher assignments change once the children go back to school?
 - a) Students are assigned to the teachers. In most instances this will not change.
- 13. Is the hybrid mandatory for all students or can parents choose whether they want their child to do virtual learning?
 - a) If you would like your child to be transitioned to the remote only cohort, you must notify the school.
 - b) Likewise, if your child is in the remote cohort but you would like them to transition to hybrid/in-person classes, you must notify the school.
- 14. What's the best way parents can help out?
 - a) Support each other, be patient, be kind.

III. Old Business

- A. Official thank you to previous officers
- B. PTA Donated \$4044.45 for unpaid lunches

IV. New Business

- A. Finance
 - 1. Budget Review
 - a) Voting instruction
 - (1) Budget reviewed - voting at later date
 - (2) Most events are up in the air
 - 2. Treasurer's report
 - a) **Great job Sara Laufer - previous treasurer**
 - 3. Gift Summary
 - a) PPE for students
 - (1) If we forgot to pick up our PPE, where do we get it?
 - (a) Please submit an email to dwspta.weehawken@gmail.com and we will coordinate pick up with you.
 - b) Gift cards for teachers
 - (1) **We provided Dunkin Donut gift cards to teachers and staff as a welcome back gift**
 - c) Last year's gifts

B. Membership

1. **Please join the PTA!**
2. **Is volunteering in the classroom outside the realm of possibility this year?**
 - a) **The PTA is still looking for class parents. They will focus predominantly on communication aspects and supporting the teacher as needed.**
3. **Will class parents still be needed for all remote classes?**
 - a) **Yes! It's all about communication, we need a point person in every class.**
4. **Is there a PTA donation link beyond membership?**
 - a) **Yes there is. Membership options and donation options are available via memberhub**
<https://dws.new.memberhub.store/store>

C. Enrichment

1. **Details will come out next week!**
2. **Depending on your level of membership, you can receive 10%-30% off on enrichment.**

D. Fundraising

1. Amazon Smile
 - a) **Can you share the link to Amazon Smile?**
(1) <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-2110461>
2. Box Tops
 - a) **Instructions will be provided in newsletter**
3. Suggestions welcome

E. Communication

We are on FB, Twitter, & Instagram, and also send email communications.

1. Weekly newsletter
 - a) **If you are not receiving our communications or know someone who isn't, please share and let us know.**
Communication is key this year!
2. Facebook Forum
 - a) **There are two private FB groups for the purpose of allowing parents to interact and support each other**
 - (1) **DWS PTA en Español**
 - (a) https://www.facebook.com/groups/933613443828119?should_open_composer=false
 - (2) **DWS PTA - Open Forum**
 - (a) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1250066825328080>
3. Diversity and Inclusion
 - a) **We want to be as inclusive as possible this year. We have three Spanish speaking board members and will do our best to integrate more members of our community.**

b) Is there another way we can increase our inclusion with the community? Let us know!

V. Questions/Comments

VI. Adjourn meeting **7:58 PM - 56 attendees**