Council of Darien School Parents P.O. Box 2643, Darien, CT 06820

CDSP General Meeting
May 11, 2023, 10 a.m.
At the Board of Education

In person: Joanna Walsh, Lori Olson, Jessica Levey, Sara Goertel, Libby Cook, Diane Urban, Adrienne Kelly, Lauren Stevens, Catherine Yates, Antoinette Cowles, Vickie Coghlin, Jen Morici, Courtney Galligan, Melissa Gluck, Dawn MacDonald, Jess Newhouse, Christina Kruez, Meghan Thornton, Caitlin Cahill, Cameron Sokolik, Catherine Yates, Leila Buckjune

Meeting called to order by Joanna Walsh at 10:08 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes from April 6, 2023. Motion to approve by Joanna Walsh. Meghan Thornton First; Christina Kreuz, Second. Passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the amended by-laws. Motion to approve the amended by-laws by Joanna Walsh. Dawn MacDonald, First; Libby Cook, Second. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve raising of the PTO dues to CDSP by $800 by Joanna Walsh. Lori Olson, First; Meghan Thornton, Second. Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve donations to Music for Youth, YWCA Parent Awareness and Darien Community Fund. Lauren Stephens, First; Catherine Yates, Second. Passed unanimously (Diane Urban recused from vote).

Co-Chair Update:

Mental Health: April 30th Out of Darkness walk was well attended and took place at DHS. They raised over $30,000 for the American Society for Suicide Prevention. We are hoping they will hold it again next year.

Mental Health first aid training is next week on the 23rd and 25th from 8:00am – 1:30pm.

5th Grade Committees: Joanna sent details and a reminder to co-chairs regarding the 5th Grade Committees. Each elementary school has a $50 and a t-shirt cap per student.. $50 should include all costs except the 5th graders gift to each school. The 5th grade gift has a cap of $2,000; a gift donation form must be completed and submitted to the administration. Only PTO events celebrating 5th grade graduation can be advertised on your wires or through room-parents. If there is an off-site, non-pto event, it cannot be advertised on wires or through room parents; the event can only be advertised on social media or through school principals.

2023/2024 Contact Information: Joanna is sending a contact spreadsheet to all co-chairs to complete for next year's executive board, Parent Awareness Rep and CDSP reps. This spreadsheet will be shared among CDSP so contact information is all centralized and easy to access.

Christ Tranberg: Diane and Joanna met with Chris Tranberg to discuss his successor and transition. This year's enrichment committees were very collaborative and Dr. Tranberg would like to streamline enrichment events among the elementary schools; the principals have asked the enrichment committees to pilot one program among all 5 schools for next year. Joanna would encourage SpED and DEI rep to attend enrichment meetings or to have a look at the options to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.

Insurance: The new Tulip, Gather Guard, doesn't have anything specifically about the SAM clause so Joanna has asked Sheila to look into this and confirm we can use it for our visitors.

Budget: The RTM voted on Monday to approve the BOE Budget for 2023/2024. July 1 is the first day of the new fiscal year.

HHR Construction: The HHR Building Committee is having a meeting at each school to discuss the construction and answer any questions. Construction is scheduled to begin mid-August instead of mid-July because they need to go back out to bid materials. Please encourage your parents to attend and your principals to forward slides to the parent community.

Personnel: The district has many open positions: Chris Tranberg, Royle Principal, Royle Assistant Principal, Tokeneke SESS AP, DHS SESS Department Chair and head of Guidance.

District is reporting a healthy candidate pool and expects to announce an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum by the end of May.

Extra-Curricular Activities: The BOE has asked the CIAC – to do a review of extracurricular activities. The CIAC has a consulting wing and for a reasonable price they will create and present a report at the retreat regarding athletics and clubs. The goal is to encourage equity between activities that aren't athletics and within athletics. If there are any questions that you or your parents would like addressed please send them to Joanna and she will pass along to the administration.

Officer Updates:

Libby Cook (Treasurer):
Libby submitted a spreadsheet outlining the five tax exempt events and how to select the events.

Diane Urban (DEI):
There is one more district equity meeting on May 22nd and then they will present the findings and recommendations to the BOE present on June 12th .

An adult learning opportunity held by Triangle Community Center at the library on May 19th interested participants can sign up at the library.

Byrne Pozzi (Communication):
Working on a collective calendar for CDSP and PTO's.

Lori Olson (Nominating/Special Projects):
Nominating for CDSP Board is wrapping up there are two open positions for Special Education. Katrina is looking at the role of the SE Reps in the school and on the CDSP board and will likely adjust the job responsibilities and description.

Co-Chairs: Joanna Walsh & Crystal Hill
Treasurer: Libby Cook
Secretary: Jess Levey
Budget co-chairs: Meaghan Thornton and Christina Kreuz
Communications/Community Outreach: Byrne Pozzi
Nominating/Special Projects: Caitlin CaHill
DEI: Diane Urban and Carrie Vomacka
Special Ed: TBD

Katrina O'Connor (Special Ed):
No Update

Sara Goertel (Budget):
RTM passed the budget for the 2023/2024 school year.

School Updates:

Hindley:

Hindley Happening on Saturday! Coffee and Conversation on belonging went well and was well received. The PTO will host a last day of school party with a DJ, food truck and inflatables. Girls tall and small coming up as well as field day.

Holmes:

Socials coming up as both a Mom's night out and Dad's night out. Unfortunately the DEI Zootopia Movie Night moved to rain date. Alicia Dadd joined their principal meeting and offered counseling on how to address conducting yourself online with students. The principal of Holmes is concerned with Darien After school during renovations and would like to know what the other schools will be offering. The Holmes Principal has asked us to address School Dismissal Manager during Chris Tranberg's departure.

Ox Ridge:

Hosted their first annual Food Fair; 13 families hosted booths and it was well received. They also hosted dancers and Kite flying to celebrate AAPI month. PTO had a VIP theme for teacher appreciation, which was well appreciated. Field day coming up as well as 5th grade graduation.

Tokeneke:

5th grade bingo night was very successful. Teacher appreciation week had a camping theme. The PTO hosted the first walkathon coming on May 19th. K orientation is coming up. Enrichment hosted a Mad Science and laser light show. Field day is coming up.

Royle:

The PTO hosted a community event with At Home Darien, which was a flower pot planting with 5th grade buddies. The newly rebranded Royle Roundup, Slide into summer, will take place on June 4th. The end of year PTO Patio Party is on June 6th. Teachers' appreciation week has been a great event and they have had many parent contributions including: Lymbr Chair massages, Michael Joseph's catering, a flower bar

and Monograms of Madison made a boat tote for teachers. The PTO was able to raise $8,700 through their Teacher Events Raffle. They have successfully updated their PTO by-laws.

MMS:

Lisa Damour's "live podcast" was an excellent event that was well attended. They received 700 RSVP's and approximately 400 people showed up. It was recorded and will be distributed.

On May 22nd the enrichment committee will host the Chinese Acrobat, flamenco dancers and French crepes to highlight languages offered at MMS.

The book Fair will be held from June 6 – 9; they will provide information to elementary schools so rising 6th graders can join and buy their required summer reading.

8th grade trip to Holly Hill coming up; PTO is providing funding for buses but is not involved in the planning.

DHS:

The PTO hosted a Wellness Week two weeks ago, which was well received. There is a "Wave of Wellness" mural, a collaborative project going through next week asking students to write gratitude post-its on the mural. Kona Ice truck is coming for last pop-up spirit event.

The PTO is still working on nominating for 2023/2024 year. There are plans for a rehearsal picnic on the 13th. A Parent Learning session held by the guidance counselor will focus on summer strategies for your student.

New Business: None from the Floor

Motion to adjourn by Joanna Walsh at 11:09 am. Lauren Stevens, first; Christina Kreuz, Second. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Levey, CDSP Secretary