

## **Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Board Meeting**

**December 14, 2022**

### **I. Call to order**

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 6:32 p.m.

Cathryn welcomes everyone to our December FFC meeting.

### **II. Approval of last meeting's minutes**

\*Motion to approve the 11/12/22 meeting minutes – Lisa Shadburn

Second – Jessica Craig-Huynh and Michelle Becker

Motion to approve November's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

### **III. Board Reports**

#### **1. President - Cathryn McFearin**

**Recap of the year** – We hit the ground running and hosted a movie night, pledge drive, launched the volunteer sign-ups in classrooms, Art Corp, Steam, Boo Bash, Family Art Night, Family Science Night, two donation drives, Book Fair and Family Book Fair Night. We are thankful we were able to launch everything – it has been great and has really flown by. Thank you to everyone – so many people on the board have worked so hard.

#### **2. Vice President – Christina Liu**

It has been a busy month – we hosted the winter social in Stonebridge and saw the Merritage lights – it was so much fun, and we hope to make it an annual tradition. We were so blown away by the number of kids and families that came. We served over 100 cups of hot cocoa and tea. We are going to try to do more play dates next year and starting in early February, we are going to break it up by grade level.

Christina gives a big thank you to all the room parents who are constantly disseminating information, planning parties and are the conduit between the teacher, FFC and the classroom families. We couldn't do it without the Art Corps parents and STEAM volunteers. As the lead coordinator on volunteers, it makes her so happy to see so many volunteers signing in at the front office with Irma and Donna. We will be hosting two more family art nights in January and February. The sign-ups will go out at the same time so that it is fair and equitable.

Both Cathryn and Christina express their enthusiasm and gratitude for the great community we have and the opportunity to build up our community and how great it is to get to know more people at the events.

### **3. Treasurer – Katarina Mansir**

Checking - \$233,826.29

Savings - \$30,560.51

Total - \$264,386.80

We had a total deposit of \$3,007.83 for the month of November – the sources included the 5<sup>th</sup> grade committee fundraising efforts made at the Boo Bash, Amazon Smile, corporate matches and continued pledge drive monthly contributions.

We had a total debit of \$4,073.63 for the month of November – some expenses included the costs for the Boo Bash, classroom reimbursements, taxes, grade level grant - Sum Dog, the Honor Choir accompanist, reading subscriptions, and library books/bookmarks.

We did a Board Vote via email regarding the purchase of library books/bookmarks from Barnes & Noble for Mrs. DaVersa and the library.

\*Motion to approve payment of \$257.08 to Mrs. DaVersa for library books purchased from Barnes & Noble (credit card receipt submitted) – Katarina Mansir

Second - Ivy Lam

Motion to approve payment for books passed unanimously.

Dusty and Cat thank Katarina for her hard work and really like the spreadsheet/table presentation and the easy-to-understand breakdown and effort put into keeping track of the finances.

### **4. Principal – Dusty Pedrotti**

Apologies from Mr. Pedrotti as he is trying to attend another meeting as well. He echoes what Cat said – we have had a great start to the year and really appreciates everyone’s hard work. Mr. Pedrotti expresses that he has never run the school in this capacity – he thought online learning was hard, but so is in person and the many elements to having everyone on campus. The normalcy is great – the 5<sup>th</sup> graders get to go to the Star of India.

We have a few things in the works – school beautification, which includes additional lunch tables and nice steel trash cans.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

### **1. EAR - Jessica Craig-Huynh**

Things are moving along – not a whole lot new to report. She has plans to start to reach out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes when we return from the break, and then 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. We currently have a pretty consistent schedule for most of the classes. We are trying to do 2 times a week for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Jessica is extremely appreciative for all the volunteers, teachers, staff, and students. She recognizes that

a lot of work goes into everything and she reappreciates every person at the school. She is looking forward to the break and getting some rest over the holidays, as she is still feeling overwhelmed and still trying to work out the kinks.

## **2. Art Corps - Lisa Shadburn**

Lisa echoes what Jessica said about volunteers – Vanessa and Christina have gone above and beyond with Art Corps – we are wrapping up for the Fall with the last round of workshops. A thank you to Dusty for help getting rooms. Parents have been glad to be back and just wondering if there are any questions about the new lessons/curriculum.

Michelle Becker comments that the teachers she has talked to, do love the new curriculum. They have been very pleased after seeing what they heard about, put into place/taught. The new lessons are different, and it is a fresh new perspective – all the teachers love it.

Lisa comments that It is a fluid process, so each year we evaluate, and see what we need to change or keep the same. This year we will have 5 lessons instead of 8. We will have an Art Show, so she is starting to work on that and coming up with a theme. It will run the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in May with the Art Show night being that Thursday, May 11. She asks everyone to bear with the Art Corps team as we have not done this in 3 years.

We will need more volunteers for the Family Art Nights scheduled for January 25 and February 28. Also, teachers are welcome to sit down while the volunteers are teaching the lesson and do the project along with their class.

Michelle will keep the feedback coming.

Christina announces that the UTK and Pre-K workshops will start in January and encourages everyone to start spreading the word.

## **3. STEAM - Karthika**

She is happy to report that we have all the lessons going on as expected. Each classroom has had at least one lesson. So far, Ms. Gonzalez is the only one trying one of the lessons for the new equipment (Spheros?). Karthika is looking for feedback and hoping to make some improvements and will continue to keep working on the space and program and make sure the volunteers have everything they need.

Cathryn acknowledges Karthika's hard-work and the big undertaking with the new Maker-Space. She really appreciates Karthika for taking it on.

Dusty also comments that he is so amazed with the STEAM room and the execution of everything they wanted in the STEAM room. He has noticed that there are constantly lessons going on in there – classes are booked through the whole year. He is so glad we are making the tech more available. Dusty hasn't heard any complaints about the teaching or lessons, and understands that there

will be mishaps, etc., so he just shows a lot of appreciation and a big thank you to all for the organizing and everything.

**V. Old Business**

No old business.

**VI. New Business**

Lisa – thank you to Cat and all the FFC who went above and beyond and made the Book Fair happen so smoothly - they did it all behind the scenes - it was amazing!

Christina reports from the SSC meeting that the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers really love EAR and would love for it to get it started for their grade levels and in their classrooms. They already have students who don't have an IEP that could use help.

Dusty comments that he is amazed at all the work that has gone into getting EAR up and running and Art Corps, etc. and hoping to get Mrs. DaVersa and Ms. Stewart involved. He would love to see getting book clubs or something going for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Jessica recognizes that it is on her list – she really wants to get it going in the upper grades – she is trying to manage EAR but is also struggling because she likes to be involved with the other programs too and it is overwhelming.

Dusty suggests we try to get more of a committee set up for EAR and we all recognize that we will get there and are here to help and support her.

Jessica would like to train parents on academic language or perhaps set up guided reading groups. She would love to sit down with a group of people and discuss ideas. She is more than willing to have a meeting and bounce ideas around when we come back in January.

**Cathryn McFearin calls the meeting to a close - the last meeting of 2022, at 7:02 p.m.**

**Attendants:**

Cathryn McFearin

Dusty Pedrotti

Angie Couvrette

Jessica Craig-Huynh

Ivy Lam

Michelle Becker

Lisa Shadburn

Kelly and Greg Cortese

Katarina Mansir

Joe Marsella

N. Martinez

Vanessa Samulis

Heidi

Karthika Arun

Christina Liu