

**Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Board Meeting**  
**March 8, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

I. **Call to order**

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:33 p.m.

Welcome everyone. Please type your name in the chat so that we have an accurate record of who is here. First order of business is to approve last meeting's minutes.

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

\*Motion to approve the 2/8/23 meeting minutes – Christina Liu

Second – Katarina Mansir

Motion to approve February's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

III. **Board Reports**

1. **President - Cathryn McFearin**

Welcome to our March meeting. It is Yanni's Family Dinner week – so go and get some tasty food and earn money for the school.

Anthony announced that yearbook pre-sales will start the Week of April 3 for \$30 and you can purchase on dingeman.net. You are encouraged to pre-order now, because they only have a few extras for sale at the end of the year.

Tiger Trot – Cathryn has been checking the weather and field conditions. We are going to use our new Cardio Club reader equipment and will need volunteers to distribute to the classrooms. We will also need help setting up the pop-ups and cones and then tear down. We have almost raised \$2000 already. Venmo has been great, so a huge thank you to Ivy and Katarina for getting the charity status all set up with Venmo. We will be collecting envelopes next week. They can bring in the cash and check donations. We have some fun incentives for the kids. Classes who return all their envelopes will get a prize and there will be some other prizes for the most laps, etc. We will also advertise on social media to get people excited. Spread the word.

2. **Vice President - Christina Liu**

The Nominating Committee was appointed by the President and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board via email.

Christina Liu (Committee Chair)

Katarina Mansir

Ami Doshi  
Heidi Jhung

### **Nominating Committee Report**

As of this meeting, the following nominations have been received via email for the following elected positions.

#### **2023-2024 Executive Board Member Nominations**

- (1) President  
Cathryn McFearin
- (2) Vice-President  
Christina Liu
- (3) Two Vice-Presidents of Fundraising  
Nilesh Patel  
Claudine Ricanor Kollmeyer
- (4) Secretary  
Angie Couvrette
- (5) Treasurer  
Katarina Mansir
- (6) Auditor  
Vanessa Samulis
- (7) Deposits Secretary  
Ivy Lam

If anyone would like to make a nomination at this time, please go ahead and do so. We will continue to receive board member nominations via email to the Nomination Committee Chair at [vp@dingeman.net](mailto:vp@dingeman.net) until April 1. Elections will be held on April 12 at our general meeting via zoom. Go ahead and nominate or send in via email.

### **Bylaws Committee Report**

Our Bylaws committee members are busily reviewing the document and getting it done. If we find there are any amendments that need to be made, we will go by the Bylaws and get them put into place.

### **Grade Level Playdate Update**

The playdates have been really fun and the feedback has been good. The families are thankful that they are coordinated and easy to attend. The next one is this Sunday, March 12 for 3rd grade and will be held at Scripps Ranch Community Park from 2-3:30 pm. 4th and 5th grade playdates will be scheduled and announced soon.

### **3. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir**

Financial Overview as of February 28, 2023

Checking Account Balance: \$202,636.83  
Savings Account Balance: \$30,562.00  
Total: \$233,198.83

Deposits in the amount of \$3,430.51, included Spirit gear t-shirt sales at the playdates, the Islands Family Dinner Night, Amazon Smile match and 5th grade committee fundraisers. We also set up Venmo, and have been practicing with that.

Expenses/payments in the amount of \$10,441.82 included classroom reimbursements, grade level grant reimbursements, Sum Dog, Biztown, some reading subscriptions, Honor Choir and reimbursement to 5th grade committee for entertainment costs.

We will be putting together a budget committee in May – we need to plan the budget for the 2023-24 school year. Please send any proposed budget adjustment requests to her as she will be heading the committee and budget planning and will be meeting in late April/early May.

Katarina made an error in staff reimbursements and has been discussing the processes for reimbursements, forms, etc. and working on making things easier and has been working with Mr. Pedrotti.

\*Motion to approve reimbursement of \$250 as budget line item to Counselor Steven Susalla – Dusty Pedrotti

Second – Christina Liu

Motion to approve expenditures of \$250 for budget line item to Steven Susalla - passed unanimously.

#### **4. Principal - Dusty Pedrotti**

Mr. Pedrotti starts by giving a shout out to the ASB student council, who led their second Tiger Rally. He is also happy to report that they held a very fun and loud “H2O, where did you go” assembly and he thanks the teachers for being flexible.

Mr. Pedrotti received the staffing information for the 2023-2024 school year, which is preliminary and can change depending on actual enrollment, but he is happy to report that we will be able to keep our associate principal Mrs. Miller, and have the same teacher allotment. Teacher prep time will be going up and we will be able to keep Mrs. DaVersa and Mrs. Stewart. We will also be opening a 4th UTK classroom, as we currently have 72 students enrolled, but are predicted to have 96 students.

Mr. Pedrotti discussed how they are working through the needs and priorities for our school with input from the parent and staff needs assessments, SSC meeting and staff meetings. We have received extra funding for English learners. We will get to keep our VAPA program, which gives teachers more planning time. We will also be able to staff our counselor

Steven Susalla an additional day each week. We will be able to keep our coffee machine lease, provide teachers with supplies and reading subscriptions, money for teacher conferences and funding for teachers to provide before or after school tutoring. Mr. Pedrotti recognizes the efforts of the FFC which helps fund so much at our school and is so appreciative of the donations from the Dingeman families.

Dingeman will be the summer school site and we currently have 500 students enrolled, including special-education and general education, Pre-K and UTK-5th grade.

Our daytime custodian Ben is currently out, but his replacement has been really consistent and helpful and is phenomenal.

Mr. Pedrotti ends his principal report by giving a shout out to the 5th grade promotion committee and all the fundraising they have been doing and also adds that he has heard a lot of positive feedback from parents about the grade level play dates.

#### **5. Staff - Mr. Joe Marsella and Mrs. Becker**

Mr. Marsella admits he thinks he solicited feedback from teachers the hard way, by going around personally and asking for comments/input because he didn't get much. Whereas Mrs. Becker sent out an email and received some good feedback. Mrs. Becker said the emails she received were mostly about how appreciative the teachers are for the support they get from the FFC. They also noted that they love the communication coming from the room parents via email as well as the paper flyers with the information. 4th grade teachers are grateful for the grade level grants and classroom reimbursements, as they just got to dissect owl pellets. Another grade level is loving the Mystery Science subscription.

Mrs. Becker is wondering how the teachers can help solicit more help and volunteering from the parents in their classrooms. They don't mind helping get the word out to parents and to recruit volunteers for the FFC.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

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

Jessica is not in attendance. Cat shares that they have started reading with Grades 3-5. Happy to report that EAR is moving along and gives a thank you to those supporting her and the program.

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

Lisa doesn't have a ton to report on this month. A lot of the workshops are wrapping up. She just did the last workshop and taught the last lesson for her daughter's 4th grade class. The 4th family art night is coming up on April 21.

The biggest announcement is that the Art Show is coming up the second week of May. Set up for the art show will be May 8, with viewing dates/times from May 9 through the evening of May 11 at the family art night and take down on Friday, May 12. She is putting it out there and will be looking for help. She would still love to find someone to learn the coordinator role and shadow the team and learn the process for the show for when the current team ages out.

### **3. STEAM – Karthika**

Karthika is happy to report that all of the gadgets we bought in 2020 are finally getting put to good use. There has been interest in the wonder bots – she played with it last week and is trying to figure out how to roll it out. The software needs to get updated as they have been sitting in boxes. She should be able to get it done by next week or hopefully before spring break. Mrs. Wagner's class has shown interest and are set to try them on 4/10 or 4/11. Karthika will be doing a less in Ms. Daleo's class.

Karthika is still working on getting the laptops updated. She has waited on hold for an hour and needs to get a file from the help desk. She is going to need Nil's help with the laptops.

Karthika will be sending the registration list for Noetic Math to Mr. Pedrotti. We will have 4th and 5th grade teams. The lessons/homework are completely digitized for Noetic Math. We have a bunch of 3rd grade volunteers that we will put to good use for Math Olympiad, as we want to utilize all the volunteers well and run the program better. There has been a lot of interest.

Karthika has created a general STEAM planner, that lists out everything we did this year. She is hoping it will make it easier for those who take on this role in the future.

She needs to submit a reimbursement from for purchases she made and will do that by Friday.

She did have someone ask about the bee-bot mats, which are really bumpy for the kids to use. She suggested using bigger sheets of poster board that lay flat and are better than the mats that have been rolled up.

Cathryn thanks Karthika for all she is doing and acknowledges that the STEAM planner she has put together is super helpful and will make helping with STEAM less intimidating.

### **V. Old Business**

Question from Christina Liu - what is our new custodian's name? Cat confirms it is Laura.

VI. **New Business**

No new business.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.**

**Attendants:**

Dusty Pedrotti  
Cathryn McFearin  
Angie Couvrette  
Ivy Lam  
Christina Liu  
Vanessa Samulis  
N. Martinez  
Mahya Ghafoori  
Joe Marsella  
Michelle Becker  
Kelly Cortese  
Katarina Mansir  
Lisa Shadburn  
Karthika Arunachalam  
Becca Ung