



COUNCIL OF DARIEN SCHOOL PARENTS MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2016 REGULAR MEETING

Julia Mengwall opened the meeting at 9:30 am.

Kristen Barnard made a motion to approve the October 6, 2016 CDSP Meeting Minutes. Elena Whidden seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

CDSP CO-CHAIR UPDATE

Co-Chairs provided a brief update, which included:

- Library Project - next step will be site visits by Dr. Brenner
- RTM - positions are still available; post-election appointments to fill open spots
- School Reports - please complete, as they are used in creating meeting agenda

THRIVING YOUTH SOCIAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Carrie Bernier (Community Fund Executive Director) explained the data and concerning trends regarding binge drinking, underage drinking and related mental health components.

Carrie also provided the background information that led to the groundbreaking social marketing initiative, as more traditional attempts to raise awareness (speakers, etc) have been unsuccessful.

Emily Larkin (Thriving Youth Program Coordinator) shared campaign photos and highlights of data regarding:

- Statistics of alcohol consumption by Darien teens
- Family Norms regarding alcohol consumption
- Peer Norms regarding alcohol consumption

Carrie and Emily also explained the dissemination plan of the campaign's images and information, which is intentionally varied.

Shelly Skoglund made a motion for CDSP to endorse the Thriving Youth's Social Marketing Campaign, which was passed unanimously with no abstentions.

BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE

Millyn

Gaaserud briefly explained and provided printed copies of this year's Budget Calendar (which can also be found on the Darien Public Schools website). She added the January 19th CDSP speech writing meeting to the CDSP's budget process schedule.

Millyn passed around a sign-up sheet for CDSP Reps to choose one of the following budget topics:

- Connecticut Economics (i.e. grants)
- Facilities (need 1 CDSP rep from each school for this large topic)
- Athletics (including fundraising, fields)
- Technology
- Curriculum (including course changes, class size, transitions to 6th and 9th grades)
- SPED/ELP (Catherine Piorkowski/SPED Reps, Stacey Tie/ELP Reps)

Connecticut Attorney General, George Jepsen, will discuss several topics, including educational grants, at the BoE building on Wednesday, November 16th from 9:30-11:00 as part of the Darien League of Women Voter's speaker series.

REISS FUND'S PROPOSED TEACHER CONFERENCE UPDATE

Susan Vogel (Reiss Fund Co-Chair) answered questions regarding the proposed budget, role of ambassadors, marketing, funding and scheduling of the proposed Reiss Fund Teacher Conference to be held on Thursday, June 22 at the Darien High School.

Susan explained reasons for the shift from the Reiss Fund's individualized professional development opportunities to an annual conference for all Darien Public School teachers. Sarah Zuro (BoE Secretary) elaborated on the history, new vision and goals of the Reiss Fund.

Note: the Reiss Fund professional development is supplemental to the PD provided by the district. Also, teachers can apply for a Barbara Harrington Grant through DAEG (Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted) to pursue specific, individualized PD opportunities.

PTO Co-Chairs shared information, questions and concerns from their PTO Executive Board discussions regarding possible PTO contributions to the Reiss Fund's Teacher Conference initiative.

Next steps:

- PTO Executive Boards will discuss the proposed contribution of \$3500
- Susan Vogel will request feedback from teachers to gauge their level of interest
- Further questions - submit to Shelly and Julia (to be forwarded to Reiss Fund)
- Vote on PTO contributions for Reiss Fund Teacher Conference at next CDSP meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany O'Connor, CDSP Secretary.