



COUNCIL OF DARIEN SCHOOL PARENTS MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2017 REGULAR MEETING

Shelly Skoglund opened the meeting at 9:30 am.

Suzanne Domenici made a motion to approve the January 5, 2017 CDSP Meeting Minutes. Theresa Vogt seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

CDSP CO-CHAIR UPDATE

Shelly and Julia provided brief updates on the following:

- Thriving Youth Campaign - launching this week
- PTO access to school copiers - still working on a solution, Shelly and Julia are meeting with Dr. Brenner to discuss next week

REISS FUND UPDATE

Susan Vogel thanked the PTOs for their contributions and provided an update of the Reiss Fund's Conference plans, which included:

- Ambassadors (teachers) have been selected from each school
- Communications/publicity rolling out as planned
- Keynote speaker announcement coming soon
- Conference breakout sessions in development
- Volunteer needs/logistics - hoping for a parent representative from each school

BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE

Millyn

Gaaserud thanked CDSP members in advance for attending tonight's rescheduled BoE Public Hearing and reviewed the procedure for speakers.

Millyn provided an overview of the remaining stages of the budget process and important dates, including:

- February 14: BoE meeting - line by line review of items to cut
- March 14: BoF Public Hearing - line item cuts for capital projects only
- May 8: RTM Approval of 2017-18 Town of Darien Budget

Jack Davis (RTM Finance & Budget Committee Chairman) explained the RTM's committee roles in the budget process, specifically regarding timing and policy.

Millyn recommended that CDSP members focus on informing and educating parents about the proposed budget, encouraging their involvement in the budget process (rather than preparing detailed, formal speeches for the BoF Public Hearing).

Dr. Brenner's input regarding the budget was requested; he emphasized the importance of respect, trust and accurate information and communication by all involved in the budget process in order to ensure well-informed decisions.

A budget process brainstorming discussion regarding strategies to better communicate with RTM members who are uninformed or misinformed about school issues led to the following ideas:

- Personal (not email) outreach to RTM members
- Budget bullet points for school newsletter blasts
- CDSP Co-Chairs meet with RTM Education Committee Chair
- CDSP members attend RTM Education Committee meetings
- Letters to newspaper

Meeting adjourned at 10:27.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany O'Connor, CDSP Secretary.