

**COUNCIL OF DARIEN SCHOOL PARENTS
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2017 REGULAR MEETING**

Shelly Skoglund opened the meeting at 9:30 am.

Suzanne Domenici made a motion to approve the March 2, 2017 CDSP Meeting Minutes. Beth Lane seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

CO-CHAIR UPDATE

Shelly Skoglund and Julia Mengwall thanked everyone for their time and hard work all year and announced this will most likely be the last CDSP meeting of the school year.

EDUCATION BUDGET UPDATE

Millyn Gaaserud provided an update of the Education Budget process, including the recent RTM Education Committee's voting results.

Discussion regarding strategies to counter the "fake news" being spread by opponents of the Education Budget.

Dr. Brenner recommended focusing on the the numbers (2.16%, the lowest budget increase in 15 years), as a quantifiable argument adheres to the facts and high-level discussion.

Jack Davis (Chair, RTM Finance & Budget Committee) agreed with Dr. Brenner, encouraging higher level conversations when false information leads discussions off track. Jack also requested better communication from the Board of Education.

Next steps: Continue to encourage parents to reach out to any/all RTM members and to attend the RTM meeting on Monday, May 8th.

DARIEN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PRESENTATION

Diane Barston (Department of Human Services Program Assistant) introduced herself and Ali Ramsteck, the new Director of Human Services, who led a discussion regarding the needs of families in Darien.

Ali and Diane explained that there are two areas to focus on in helping those in need:



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

1. Awareness - 5% of Darien residents live in poverty (spread throughout the school districts)
2. Collaboration - among schools and the town

Tokeneke and Hindley have provided packages to school families in need - confidentially, with the principal only (not PTO members) knowing who the recipients are.

Through the Back to School program, Darien Human Services provides school supplies, backpacks, gift certificates for shoes, and eligibility to programs to families in need.

Brainstorming discussion to increase collaboration and communication, including the following ideas:

- Coordination with Kids Care programs
- PTO publicity of services available and ensuring confidentiality
- Social media publicity

The Darien Human Services are also considering including information in an orientation package for freshmen, and through the athletic director/coaches at DHS.

ACTION ON PROPOSED CDSP BUDGET FOR 2017-18

Amy Zerbe reviewed the proposed budget and clarified the accounting fees. Chrissy Rooney made a motion to approve the CDSP Proposed Budget, Julie Best seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ACTION ON PROPOSED PTO DONATIONS FOR 2017-18

Shelly and Julia reviewed the proposed PTO donations to Darien Environmental Group, Darien foundation, Music for Youth and Parent Awareness. Sara Parent made a motion to approve the proposed PTO donations, Beth Lane seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ACTION ON PROPOSED CDSP BY-LAW CHANGES

Suzanne Domenici made a motion to accept the proposed CDSP By-Law changes (including Special Projects Chair replacing Communications Chair and updating outdated language), Julie Best seconded the motions, and the motions passed unanimously with no abstentions.

ACTION ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Shelly and Julia reviewed the Conflict of Interest policy. Sara Parent made a motion to accept the Conflict of Interest Policy, Suzanne Domenici seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding 3-year vertical houses and other proposals for MMS. Michael Harman, BoE Chairperson, welcomed questions to be sent to the BoE prior to the next scheduled discussion of the topic.

Catherine Piorkowski explained the change from SPED Rep to SE Rep on PTO slates.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted by Tiffany O'Connor, CDSP Secretary.

**CDSP Slate of Officers
2016/17**

School	Office	Name
CDSP	Co-Chair	Beth Lane
CDSP	Co-Chair	Wendy Ward
CDSP	Budget Coordinator	Shelly Skogland
CDSP	Secretary	Tiffany O'Connor
CDSP	Treasurer	Amy Zerbe
CDSP	Community Outreach Chair	Julie Best
CDSP	Nominating Chair	Lori Olson
CDSP	Special Education Chair	Catherine Piorkowski
CDSP	Special Projects Chair	Wendy Hopper

Roles in blue represent change from previously approved slate