



CDSP General Meeting

May 13, 2021 9:15 a.m.

Via Zoom

In attendance: Ellen Abbot, Julie Best, Raquel Bird, Cristina Boudo, Leila Buckjune, Caitlin Cahill, Libby Cook, Amy Daniels, Belinda Fang, Kristen Fiordalis, Mary Elizabeth Garvey, Gina Gromelski, Alex Hall, Crystal Hill, Beth Jacobs, Joan Kanlian, Carol Kennedy, Kelly LeSage, Kadi Lublin, Sarah Madson, Jenn Moller, Beth Morgan, Jennifer Morici, Robin Nelson, Tiffany O'Connor, Amy O'Kane, Lori Olson, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Byrne Pozzi, Jennifer Sherman, Yesim Cil Sukhrani, Stacey Tie, Joanna Walsh

Meeting called to order by Lori Olson at 9:18 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes of April 22nd, 2021 by Lori Olson. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Update:

- The RTM approved the budget on Monday night.
- The new hire assistant principals and principal are still in process. MMS principal parent interviews are done. Tokeneke and Hindley candidates still need to be interviewed by parents.
- Reminder that ESY will be in person this summer unless an agreement is made with the district beforehand.
- Reminder that Darien has partnered with New Cannan on a vaccine clinic. Darien residents are allowed to go to the NC clinic. Lord & Taylor also is available.
- Next Saturday there will be a stem cell drive through to support Frank from Mama Carmella's.
- Facilities projects are moving along. A reminder to all to stay engaged. Thank you to all who spoke at the public hearing. The BOE and Administration appreciated the feedback.
- TYTF Update: After our March meeting where we shared that the DHSPA will withdraw from the TYTF, Julie reached out to the TYTF to let them know that the meeting had occurred. In return, CDSP received a strongly worded email from TYTF. CDSP responded back with an email sharing that we support the DHSPA's choice. CDSP is at the TYTF by their invitation. We will continue to work with them if there are programs that support our youth. At this time the CDSP has not heard back from the TYTF. We are still participating in the survey data review.

Action Item: VOTE 21/22 CDSP Executive Slate:

- Review of the slate. There is still an open position for Budget Co-Chair. Please consider this role for anyone you come across who might be interested.
- Vote on 2021/22 CDSP Executive Slate - Passed Unanimously

Officer Updates:

•*Special Projects:* The DEI Committee is working to figure out the best way to educate our community. They are meeting regularly and would like to hit the ground running in the fall. Jenn Sherman met with Chris Tranberg and had a good discussion. He has offered to speak with the DEI Chairs next week. Also met with Jason Stricker of the Insight Education Group for advice on the most structured approach that leans on research. Thanks to everyone who has sent in ideas and resources. The YWCA 14 Day Challenge is going on now with 80 participants. On May 17th the YWCA will be reaching out to schools to gauge interest in follow up community meetings.

•*Special Education:* ESY is moving along. A higher number of students is expected this summer. Reminder to please reach out to Kadi Lublin with any changes to the slate.

•*Community Outreach:* We are circling back with organizations that we voted to give donations. Please look for the invoice from this year for the Darien Foundation.

•*Treasury:* Please make sure to look at the attached Budget. The second tab holds the version that we will vote on at the next meeting. We plan to keep PTO dues where they stand and we plan to keep zoom costs in the budget.

School Updates:

· *Hindley:* We are in the middle of the Hindley Hoopla. Will be having Fun Friday's for the month of May. Held a virtual magic show last week. Tomorrow will be tie-dye day. The week after is a school wide art project and also Saturday ice cream at the school. The last week will include a marble guessing game. Will be giving 5th graders a t-shirt and lawn sign. Will also be having a parade. Virtual Book Fair is starting next Monday. Question: For facilities, do we have a timeline of when we need to engage parents to talk again?

· *Holmes:* The 5th grade committee is working. Field day will be happening. For enrichment we will be hosting an Author visit for K-2 and a cartoonist for 3-5. Hoping to do an in-person mom's night out at the beginning of June. Our cultural passport book club has two more meetings. Will have a teacher appreciation at the end of the year themed "Sunny Sendoff" - Sunglasses and towels. Breakfast for the teachers as well.

· *Ox Ridge:* For teacher appreciation week designed t-shirts for teachers and kids. For school principals day supplied lunch for both the principal and assistant principal. For school nurses day gave Amazon gift cards. We are in the middle of a virtual spring book fair and now have e-wallets for teachers. The 5th graders are sponsoring a mask drive. Working with Make Modern - make a mask, donate 2. Recycling program for 5th graders. They are encouraging the school community to compost. May 25th holding an in-person parent yoga session. May 26th will hold a DEI parent coffee at Pear Tree. Also will have a new building update that evening. Field days are planned, with popsicles. 5th graders will have a highland farm graduation ceremony and also a car parade drive thru.

· *Royle:* Teacher appreciation was very successful. Held a virtual comedy night fundraiser. More than 50 people signed up. Lauren Tarshis, author of the "I Survived" series will be virtually visiting 3-5. Plans for

5th graders include a car parade and an outside ceremony. Thursday will be holding a parent event at Mathers Barn that includes sketching, cocktails and dessert.

- *Tokeneke*: Our Spring Fling starts Monday. This includes a talent show and gift baskets. On May 27th will be holding an Old Board/ New Board turnover meeting.
- *MMS*: Brought in Cafe Bon for teacher appreciation day. Gave gift cards out for National Nurses day. Have a book fair starting today at Barrett's Bookstore. Thank you to the elementary schools for posting 5th grade info in your wires. Will be holding our new board/old board turnover on the 19th. On the 26th hosting "How to be an Ally" with the YWCA. 8th grade will be having a graduation picnic split up over two days. All 8th graders will receive a lawn sign. Certificate ceremonies are on the 14th. Purchasing Nobu framed artwork and customized dog leashes for Ms. Sommers retirement. Working with the student council on a donation drive for pets in her name. For year end appreciation all teachers will receive Chamber of Commerce gift cards.
- *DHS*: Thank you to all the PTO's for getting the word out about Adopt a Senior. Monday yard signs will go out for all seniors. Tuesday the 15th the Administration will hold a school parade. Graduation will be held in-person on the field. The last staff lunch will be held in mid June. Will hold a senior parent coffee in person with a coffee truck, which will stay on for the teachers. Will also hold a coffee for New to Darien parents and a coffee for LGBTQ parents.

New Business:

- Susan Shultz is leaving the Darien Times. Do we know who the new contact will be at the paper?
- The highschool theater production of Something Rotten will start on May 27th. Tickets can be purchased at Theatre308.com.
- Fundraising can go back to normal for all PTO's next year.

Motion to adjourn by Lori Olsen at 10:12 am. First, Jennifer Sherman. Second, Catherine Piorkowski

Respectfully submitted by Carol Kennedy, Secretary.