



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

**CDSP General Meeting
October 13, 2022, 10 a.m.
At the Board of Education**

In person: Joanna Walsh, Lori Olson, Jessica Levey, Sara Goertel, Libby Cook, Byrne Pozzi, Deb Ritchie, Cameron Sokolik, Catherine Piorkowski, Diane Urban, Katrina O'Connor, Leila Buckjune, Victoria Coghlin, Amy Zerbe, Adrienne Kelly, Dawn MacDonald, Amy Reid, Jess Newhouse, Kadi Lublin, Antoinette Cowles, Kristen Smith, Marissa Herbers, Catherine Yates, Christina Kreiz, Meghan Thornton, Shannon Keefe, Courtney Galligan, Sara Parent, Julie Best, Jamie Zionie.

Meeting called to order by Joanna Walsh at 10:13 a.m.

Deb Ritchie gave prepared comments to address scrutinizing of CDSP organization and reps.

Vote to approve the minutes from September 8, 2022. Motion to approve by Joanna Walsh. Sara Goertel, First, Lori Olson, Second. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Updates:

Mental Health: On 9/27 the BOE approved the hiring of a Director of Mental Health for the district. Once BOE Finance subcommittee discusses, BOE will approve a budget transfer to pay for it. Administration has posted the job, but hiring won't happen without the financing approval.

The Out of the Darkness walk is on 10/22 and there is a Darien team walking. PTOs should feel free to advertise to your parent body if they want.

Suicide Survivors Day is on November 19th; there will be a program at Norton Presbyterian, details to come.

Insurance:

CDSP creating flow chart or step-by-step instructions to make it easier for the service providers. All schools, except DHS, have been affected by insurance protocols. Using Cirma seems to be the easiest way to obtain the necessary insurance. Insurance fees are out of cap.

SEL Parent Workshop

RULER is the SEL program DPS is implementing across all seven schools. Dr. Mark Brackett, RULER creator, spoke at convocation with great success. PTOs have the opportunity to sponsor a workshop for parents. His speaking fee is between \$5-\$7000, which would be an out of cap expense ranging from \$714-\$1000 per school. This is a live, in-person interactive, workshop for parents of Darien students. PTO reps should take this information back to their boards to discuss if they are willing to help pay for this; regardless of which schools offer to participate it will be open to the entire school community.

Weighting the cost per school based on student population was discussed. Dr. Addley working on confirming a date.

SSO

The SSO positions have been approved by the BOE, it now moves to the board of finance to approve the special appropriation and then moves to the RTM. Dr. Addley is hoping for approval in December with the SSO's in place in January.

Curriculum Meeting

In the last curriculum meeting they reviewed the art program in elementary and middle school. The English Department chair and History Department chair both gave an overview of the process of selecting course materials selections.

Policy meeting scheduled for October 14, was canceled.

Monday October 17th is the next district DEI meeting. On October 29th the Finance Committee will discuss the Director of Mental Health.

BOE Communications Committee

Julie Best, co-chair of this new BOE subcommittee, described the committee as organizational in nature. Goal is to find ways to communicate as efficiently and effectively with all of the stakeholders. They are drafting a charge for the committee which will be voted on by the entire BOE.

Dr. Addley

Dr. Addley stopped in and discussed Mark Brackett, field trips, playdates on buses, early morning recess, and SSOs. Meghan Thornton (OX) spoke of safety issues surrounding traffic issues at Ox Ridge due to constructions, and asked Dr. Addley to go back to the Police chief to help address the problem.

Officer Updates:

Libby Cook (Treasurer):

- Taxes are due in a few weeks, and she needs details from each school by Monday.
- Still waiting to hear back from the accountant on tax rules

Diane Urban (DEI):

- District DEI meeting is next Monday. The focus of the last meeting was reviewing 2022 accomplishments and 2023 goal setting. Next chair meeting will be on October 18th
- YWCA Parent Awareness is looking at anti-bullying for the next topic
- Town Mental Health task force will implement resilience training on November 14th and 15th and will be available on zoom. The 14th will host two age groups. The Post-vention period and plan is just beginning.

Byrne Pozzi (Communication)

- CDSP website updating with policies, minutes, etc.
- Relaunching 'Did You Know' series

Lori Olson (Nominating/Special Projects)

- PTOs can look forward to record retention guidelines, as well as looking into best practices for nonprofits and state guidelines.

Katrina O'Connor (Special Ed)

- First meeting in September with a full house. Building coffees have begun and community building within each building has begun.
- MMS has a program on 10/27: Understanding specialized reading instruction and assessment.
- 12/1 Special Education Day – individual reps will discuss with their boards, Exec board will take care of the head office.

Sara Goertel (Budget)

- There is a proposed budget calendar by the BOE, but it has not been approved yet.

School Updates:

Hindley:

- They had their cocktail party and auction and raised \$38,000 (in gross). Some issues with weather for Family portraits but it has been straightened out. Currently the book fair is running.

Holmes:

- Walkathon was successful! Upcoming events are 5th grade Bingo, Parent Social at the VFW and a book fair in November that will also highlight an art show. The bookfair will allow for parents to come shop with students.

Ox Ridge:

- Reiterated that traffic is an issue. They are working to implement a talent show this year for the first time. There is still no cafeteria, so no hot lunch is being served.

Tokeneke:

- Tokeneke PTO is working diligently on the Pumpkin Carnival.

Royle:

- The walkathon raised \$25,000. There is a parent social trivia night coming up.
- Royle executive board is seeking clarification on public comment at BOE meetings. CDSP will not give a personal opinion as a group opinion. But CDSP will always ask questions. Questions solicit better information from Administration or BOE. Sometimes questions can be helpful to the administration and BOE in cases where they are not thinking of certain students or parents.

MMS:

- Great attendance at and feedback from the Amanda Craig event
- Jerry Craft visited an assembly for 6th and 7th graders in conjunction with the return of the Scholastic bookfair
- Parent social at the Piedmont club with Hello Brooklyn Band on 11/11

DHS:

- Jr./Sr Coffee with guidance department had a great turnout.
- There is a virtual college panel on October 19th.
- Homecoming week kicks off with the Trunk or Treat on October 23rd and will culminate with a battle of the bands.

New Business: None from the floor

Motion to adjourn by Deb Ritchie. Bryne Pozzi, first; Lori Olson, Second. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Levey, CDSP Secretary