



**CDSP General Meeting
December 8, 2022, 10 a.m.
At the Board of Education**

In person: Joanna Walsh, Lori Olson, Jessica Levey, Sara Goertel, Libby Cook, Byrne Pozzi, Diane Urban, Katrina O'Connor, Courtney Galligan, Jen Morici, Whitney Ranson, Victoria Coughlin, Shannon Keefe, Meghan Thorntont, Kristin Smith, Dawn McDonald, Amy Reid, Catherine Yates, , Lauren Stevens, Caitlin Cahill, Cameron Sokolik, Julie Best, Sara Parent, Catherine Piorkowski, Adrienne Kelly, Armel Jacobs, Antoinette Cowles

Meeting called to order by Joanna Walsh at 10:05 a.m.

Vote to approve the minutes from November 2, 2022. Motion to approve by Joanna Walsh. Sara Goertel, First; Lori Olson, Second. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Updates:

Deb has taken an interim position as COO of Person to Person; she will know in the next three months if the position becomes permanent. If the position is permanent; CDSP will begin looking for a replacement co-chair.

Marc Brackett – a general thank you for funding and advertising the workshop; there has been very positive feedback.

Food Services – The cost of maple syrup is too high but the less expensive options are too unhealthy due to high fructose corn syrup and fat. Chartwells continues to look for a solution.

Recording capabilities – Joanna and Deb spoke to Dr. Addley; he was unaware that the schools are unable to record events and meetings. PTO co-chairs should continue to discuss with the principals. Courtney and Byrne have floated the idea to Darien Foundation and they are open to discussing this as a grant. MMS and OX would like someone in their building to be trained to use the equipment.

Building Communities – Schools moved away from in-person events due to covid but we need to reinstate events that will foster community and participation within our parent body. How? Chairs to think about solutions. PTO chairs and executive board should not take on the responsibilities of every unfilled volunteer position.

OXR thinking about a dad/child event with purpose, such as building the edible garden or something surrounding the super bowl.

CDSP needs in-person participation from each school at every BOE regular meeting. At the prior BOE meeting Meghan Thornton spoke regarding an update on her building and it was very effective. We need more voices representing our parent community; please solicit those voices and the feedback.

Budget Process: We need assistance in the budget process in soliciting feedback from our parent body and in speech writing.

BOE Sub-committees:

Curriculum Meeting – January 12th meeting will be postponed; Communications Meeting – December 9th

Officer Updates:

Libby Cook (Treasurer):

- Libby will be night filing taxes Sunday night so please send any edits or questions prior to that.

Diane Urban (DEI):

- November DEI meeting – how we schools collaborate. There has been a lot of interest in Tokeneke's belonging workshop.
- There is a lot of discussion on how to best support our teachers.
- YWCA Parent Awareness 2/2 at 7:30pm Understanding Executive Functioning.
- District DEI Team met 11/21 to discuss priorities and next steps. Continued talking about data gathering.

Byrne Pozzi (Communication)

- CDSP info series is wrapping up with one more feature. Thank you for interacting with the social media posts and including these in your wires.
- The goal is to educate the community so if people have suggestions, please let Byrne know.
- Byrne will be providing blurbs on budget - key dates, topics, etc to keep the parents aware.

Lori Olson (Nominating/Special Projects)

- Lori has been working on the insurance document and newsletter guidelines. She will send to Joanna and Deb for review and hopefully will be submitted to PTO co-chairs by this weekend.
- Lori will also investigate and share best practices for other non-profits and school guidelines for social media posts.

Katrina O'Connor (Special Ed)

- Last week we celebrated National Special Education Day for the second time.
- Shirley Klein and her staff give their annual special education update at the BOE.
- This is a good time to ask questions and make the board aware of what is happening in your building please encourage parents to be aware and involved.

Sara Goertel (Budget)

- A reminder that all the parents in Darien District are members of CDSP. We need variety in our representation
- For the co-chairs and budget reps: please engage with the BOE meetings, Super Saturday during your school's time. Speech writing sessions will be organized by categories instead of by building. We will create a google doc to share and then select people who are willing to speak at the meetings (BOE, RTM, etc).

School Updates:

Hindley:

- Holiday Market last Saturday went very well. Had National Honors Society students who needed volunteer hours helped and were amazing.

- Teacher appreciation event before Thanksgiving was pumpkin bread and coffee set up at the front door.

Holmes:

- DEI committee set up a foodie club and they met for the first time at Towa in Stamford
- Kids care is doing a mitten drive next week.
- Fundraiser is cookie kits and gingerbread houses.
- Annual appeal launched last week.

Ox Ridge:

- Meghan Thornton has had a good response from her speaking at the previous BOE meeting.
- They still don't have a cafeteria – but they were able to serve soup and understand that Chartwells is working on getting a van to deliver hot food.
- Nielsen's wreath making event was very popular among parents.
- March social is going to be held at Wee Burn, so the event will be limited to 200 people.
- Co-chairs have decided to postpone the Sono Beer Garden event.

Tokeneke:

- Holiday helpers cookie decorating went well.
- The weather man came for an enrichment event and they have received great feedback from teachers, parents and students.

Royle:

- DEI committee is on pause for the time being.
 - o Addition by email from Roisin Veckerelli, Royle DEI chair: "Royle DEI committee is pausing on putting anything else out into the public domain/parent community until we've had some ability and time to gain more direction/input/support/guidance/alignment from a combination of the District, CDSP/PTO, our school, and others. And while current events have been happening, we haven't had the chance to connect across those stakeholders to reach a more formalized consensus for how we can be most effective. So the aforementioned pausing has made sense for now to preserve everyone's mental health."

MMS:

- Extremely successful direct appeal launched 2 weeks before thanksgiving and surpassed their goal of \$27,000. Used paypal and pay4school to collect funds. 30% of families participated, over last year's 27%.
- MMS hosted a Book fair the first time in many years; grossed \$6,000 in scholastic dollars that the principal will divide among each school leader.
- Pies for teachers the Tuesday before Thanksgiving are popular.

DHS:

- Freshman parent coffee right after thanksgiving was a community building event and they are thinking of doing a part 2.
- Holiday lunch for teachers is in the works.
- College student panel was very well received and informative for our parents, event was recorded so that the students could watch.

Dr. Addley stopped in. He thanked PTOs for sponsoring and attending the Mark Brackett event.
Discussion of district and building level consistency among DEI initiatives.

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn by Joanna Walsh at 11:28 am. Meghan Thornton, first; Lori Olsen Second. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Levey, CDSP Secretary