



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

**CDSP General Meeting
January 12, 2023, 10 a.m.
At the Board of Education**

In person: Joanna Walsh, Sara Goertel, Libby Cook, Byrne Pozzi, Diane Urban, Katrina O'Connor, Courtney Galligan, Jen Morici, Shannon Keefe, Victoria Coughlin, Autumn Robert, Christina Kreuz, Kristin Smith, Marie Lewis, Amy Reid, Catherine Yates, Caitlin Cahill, Cameron Sokolik, Laura Laudicina, Julie Best, Catherine Piorkowski, Adrienne Kelly, Antoinette Cowles, Leila Buckjune, Amy Zerbe

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

Vote to approve the minutes from December 8, 2022. Motion to approve by Joanna Walsh. Diane Urban, First; Sara Goertel, Second. Passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Updates:

- Teacher Appreciation will take place week of May 8th, usually celebrated on Tuesday (if only one day)
- Curriculum Committee meeting was 1/10 - discussed math acceleration and SEL curriculum. All CDSP participants were encouraged to watch the meeting for more information.
- Super Saturday - Ms. Walsh expressed appreciation to every school for attending, asking questions, etc. All questions and answers will be posted on the DPS Budget site imminently.

Recap on discussion:

- Robotics (post private funding by The Darien Foundation) - the BOE raised questions about matters such as funding for ipads, equitable offering, teacher / instructor shortages.
- Wellness Center - 1 FTE requested. Currently only runs during lunch
- Teen Talk - proposal to bring Kids in Crisis program to DHS. Presentation to BOE on 1/24
- DEI - not readily apparent where this is in the budget other than a professional development line item
- Special Education - there were requests to Ms. Klein to indicate what is needed and to begin hiring ASAP.
- Teachers College - still in budget although some parents are expressing interest in science of reading, there would be financial implications for changing reading program
- Healthcare costs - expected to increase
- Athletics - quite a few questions about this program
- Department Chairs - there were questions about this role
- Building Substitutes - proposal to increase pay, guarantee 5 days/week, and 3 per building to alleviate shortages

- Schools asked to share takeaways from discussions with building Administrators:
 - MMS - Principal wants to continue Genius Hour, although not greatly received by 8th graders. PTO suggested student survey to understand the impact/benefits. Building subs/lunch monitors needed
 - DHS - support for Wellness Center Coordinator and additional hours. Support for ASL. 0.6 FTE for PE. Want to revisit busing. Support for Auditorium equipment. Will request ½ parking fee be returned to students for Senior events.
 - Royle - Principal stressed need for subs and support for 3 building substitutes. Special Education - pushing for transparency re: missed services
 - Hindley - discussion regarding cafeteria food - disappointment with Chartwells.
 - Holmes - meeting with Principal has been postponed, will be rescheduled ASAP.
 - Ox Ridge - Special Education: asking for various resources. Most feedback from parents is about class sizes.
 - Tokeneke - still down a school psychologist. Mrs. Klein offered to have families call her directly. Down one section for Kindergarten but only one student away from breaking

Dr Addley visited the meeting at 10.37am.

- Upcoming presentations on Fitch, DHS Mental Health, Director of Security, so Administration answers from Super Saturday may not cover those topics in detail.
- He'd like the Dir of Mental Health, Dr. Dadd, start in March before possibility of bringing Teen Talk to MMS
- BoF questions that were promised during Super Saturday have not yet been received by Addley.

Officer Updates:

- Libby Cook (Treasurer): got invoice from Brackett so PTOs so each school will need to cut out-of-cap checks. Filing 1099s. Missing Royle and Holmes W-9s for a couple of providers.
- Diane Urban (DEI): DCA / YWCA PA Wed 18th coffee for new PA volunteers. Jan 26th coffee. \$24K for DEI consulting - absence of additional information.
- Byrne Pozzi (Communication) - additional budget blurbs coming
- Lori Olson (Nominating/Special Projects) - absent
- Katrina O'Connor (Special Ed): all schools' reps have highlighted issues to BOE, Tokeneke's being the most pressing. DHS just lost Sp Ed teacher. Spoke at Super Saturday about needing these kinds of issues to be addressed urgently. Important for parents to advocate directly through writing.
- Sara Goertel (Budget) - meeting on 19th at 9.30am - 11.30am to divide into speechwriting groups. Will most likely be divided thematically. 3-5 speeches total. Google docs, collaborative. Add/cut night is 1/24. Public Hearing is 1/31. Possibility for adds/cuts after that.

School Updates: skipped due to time constraints

New Business:

- Comment from the floor encouraging schools to coordinate with one another prior to booking signature events

Motion to adjourn by Joanna Walsh at 11:38 am. Libby Cook, first; Shannon Keefe, Second. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Byrne Pozzi, substitute for CDSP Secretary