

Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Board Meeting

September 7, 2022

I. Call to Order

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin at 6:33 p.m.

Cathryn welcomes everyone and asks those in attendance to please put their name in the chat. Last meeting's minutes were shared with the board.

II. Approval of last meeting's minutes

*Motion to approve the 5/10/22 meeting minutes – Jessica Craig-Huynh

Second – Katarina Mansir

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Board Reports

1. President - Cathryn McFearin

The FFC Board members introduced themselves.

Cathryn – President; Christina – Vice President; Katarina – Treasurer; Deposit Secretary – Ivy; Secretary – Angie; VP of Fundraising – Nil; Members at Large – Lisa (who will join later), Jessica and Indu; Staff Representatives – Mr. Joe for primary grades and Mrs. Becker for upper grades; and Auditor – Vanessa

Announcements from Cathryn

Movie Night – Sing 2 will be shown on the white top this Friday. Everyone is welcome to come at 6:00 to set up chairs and blankets and can pre-order pizza and pick up at 5:30; movie will start at 7:15/7:30 and there will be other treats for sale.

Tiger Rally – we will be re-introducing our Tiger rally on Friday, September 16, and will do a practice/shortened version at the start of school on the white top.

Pledge Drive – we will be starting our biggest fundraiser of the year on Monday. Flyers and envelopes will go home with the students. The money raised is used for so many things, like reading subscriptions, extra-curricular programs, support for our teachers, etc.

Enrichment – we will again be partnering up with Level Up for after-school enrichment programs and classes will start next week. We had a successful year last year and have now worked out the kinks and will be able to better track which students are going to which programs, so it will be even more seamless this year.

Cardio Club – we will be launching our before school running club very soon. Nil has worked on acquiring new equipment to track the kids when they come and run laps. In years past, they were able to earn prizes and ribbons, but most importantly, the students have fun socializing and exercising with their friends in the morning. The FFC funded the new equipment, which cost around \$8,000.

2. Vice President - Christina Liu

Volunteers – she is happy to plug volunteering and all of the opportunities there are to help out. She encourages everyone to take a look at the Google form on Dingeman.net to sign up for a volunteer role. Currently, 15 classes already have room parent volunteers and 65 parents have signed up. We are still looking to grow that number. We are excited to get the Art Corps and STEAM programs up and running but need the volunteers to make it happen. We are also getting very active on social media and she encourages everyone to check out our posts.

3. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir

Budget – Checking: \$169,943.77; Savings: \$30,559.00

Projected revenue: \$149,200.00; Projected expenses: \$204,539.00; Balance: -\$55,339.00

Katarina reviewed and shared her spreadsheets and the accounting and gave a great breakdown. We are hopeful through the various streams of revenue, like the pledge drive, corporate matches, jog-a-thon, Amazon Smile, and various fundraising events that we will be able to meet our expected expense budget. The budget will be posted on Dingeman.net

*Motion to approve the 2022-2023 budget – Nilesh Patel

Second – Christina Liu

Motion passed unanimously.

The budget passes.

4. Principal - Dusty Pedrotti

First wants to welcome our new associate principal Linnea Miller.

Ms. Miller introduces herself and expresses her appreciation for the warm welcome from everyone. Her very first job was at Dingeman, so she is happy to be back and she has loved meeting all the families.

Mr. Pedrotti is happy to announce that the school year is off to a great start. This is his 4th year as Dingeman's principal. He started as a vice principal and became the principal 2 weeks before the Covid-19 shut-down, so it has been quite the experience. He is currently feeling overwhelmed, but with all good things. We have a lot of great things in store for the kids this year. He expresses his appreciation to the FFC board members and for their help over the summer. They have done countless things to get the school year off to a great start, including helping with the start of the UTK classes, a sponsored staff lunch, their presence on campus, selling spirit wear and always seeing what they can do to help.

We were projected to have 611 students and were able to open 1 and then 2 more UTK classes. We are now sitting at around 710 students and with more students, we get more staff. It has been nice to meet all the new families before and after school and at the coffee chats.

Mr. Pedrotti is happy to have Ms. Miller here as the associate principal and is excited for the year ahead. He is also excited about bringing back the run club, EAR, and the STEM and Art Corps programs and things like family art and science nights and to be able to do these things in person again.

There is an upcoming School Site Council meeting where parents and elected representatives come and give their input about the needs for students after reviewing data.

And finally, a huge thank you to the FFC and all the families in attendance tonight.

IV. Committee Reports

1. EAR - Jessica Craig-Huynh

Jessica is happy to report that we are ready to get started with EAR. There will be a training on September 14 in the MPR on campus. You must RSVP for the training. The "Everyone a Reader" program has been in the County for quite a while, but she just got the program going at Dingeman just before the Covid-19 shutdown, so last year was the first "real" year. It is a way to help support students in grades 1-3. And if we have enough volunteers, we can also support Kindergarten. Volunteers read 1 on 1 with students for 15 minutes, one time per week. This effort helps to build confidence and reading skills and introduce them to good reading strategies. Jessica's hope is to get volunteers to commit to helping 1 hour per week, but the program is very flexible and she will take whatever amount of time volunteers are able to give. You can email Jessica with any questions about the program or if you cannot make it to the training, but would like to volunteer, she can work with you. She can also use help with prepping and organizing materials.

Christina pointed out that the EAR training is a great learning experience for parents, and can provide some tips on reading/working with your own children. It is a great opportunity, even if you can't volunteer for the program.

Michelle gives a shout out to the program and Jessica and a big thank you to her for seeing that it can also help the 4th and 5th graders. She is confident the program is going to soar this year and gives her greatest appreciation to Jessica from her and the kids.

Cathryn also expresses her gratitude for the program, as a parent of a student who was able to participate as a 1st grader. Jessica even made a certificate for the kids at the end of the year. It was a really good experience.

2. Art Corps - Lisa Shadburn (not in attendance)

Mr. Pedrotti shared that we are going to get the Art Corps parent volunteer trainings going in early October and we should be able to host the first family art night in October as well.

Cathryn added that she thinks Lisa is going to be holding an Art Corps orientation the last week of September. She knows that Lisa needs more volunteers to help run the program, in addition to the liaison and helpers for every class. Specifically, the following positions are open: Art Corps Volunteer Coordinator, Art Show coordinators (can be two people), and Family Art Night coordinator. We will be having 3 family art nights this year, which is a really fun evening where you come with your child and do a planned art project

In spring, we are planning on displaying the artwork that the students have done throughout the year through the Art Corps program. Families can come and view all of the artwork – each student will have one piece of artwork that gets matted/mounted and displayed. Lisa will need help coordinating this event.

Christina shared that Art Corps is a wonderful program led by the Art Corps company, but run by parent volunteers. She recognizes that it can sound intimidating, but everything needed to teach the art lessons in class are provided, along with the training on how to teach the lesson. She encourages everyone to learn more and consider signing up to volunteer.

3. STEM - Katarina Mansir

We are hoping to have a quick STEM orientation one morning on the white top after drop-off to discuss the overall STEM program and introduce the new technology/equipment we have. Also thinking about doing an impromptu open house, where we could bring out the technology so parents can come see what it is all about. And could also bring out artwork samples and supplies too and answer questions parents may have about the Art Corps and STEM programs, so volunteering isn't so daunting.

Karthika announced that the current plan is to roll out 4 STEM lessons with the Bee Bots and Pro Bots; and then roll out the new technology in 2023. Another idea is to start utilizing the Maker Space for the STEM program. Karthika also inquired about the road ahead for the Math Olympiad and Noetic Math competitions and whether or not we are going to try to form Dingeman teams.

Katarina is looking for volunteers to help contribute to redesigning the Dingeman.net website. She needs someone to build the content and designers or someone to help pull content to build pages or add high resolution images and logos. Let her know if you are willing to help or know of anyone.

4. Community Events

We have our movie night coming up and should also be able to host a Fall Festival/Boo Bash. These are great events to help out at if you are not able to go into the classroom to volunteer, but are perhaps good at event planning or have time outside of classroom hours. We can always use help at these big events. We are looking forward to being able to have events in person again.

V. Old Business

No old business.

VI. New Business

No new business.

Cathryn has loved what the FFC has provided the school in the past but also welcomes any new ideas or suggestions for ways to enhance our school or provide new opportunities that benefit all students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Attendants:

Dusty Pedrotti

Linnea Miller

Cathryn McFearin

Angie Couvrette

Kelly and Greg Cortese

Ivy Lam

Indu Ramachandran

Vanessa Samulis

Heidi Jhung

Joe Marsella

Arthur (and Kimberly) Kennelly

Katarina Mansir

Anne Dennis

Lin Xue

Eunice Manzano

Pulkit Aggarwal

Maryam Doroudi

Karthika Arunachalam

Pratibha Damodara

Jessica Craig-Huynh

Megha Bakhai

N. Martinez

Christina Liu

Michelle Becker

Nilesh Patel

Yicun Liang

Chun Zeng

Shruthi Krishnan

Melody Koba

“iphone 6”

Vidhi

Becca

Aouda Flores

Michelle Carranza

Eydie Strouse

Nirmit

William Kimberly

Ramasundar Kara

Anthony’s iphone

Ans Gupta