

**Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Board Meeting**  
**October 10, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

**I. Call to order**

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin at 6:32 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Welcome everyone to our general meeting. The first item of business is to approve September's meeting minutes. Cathryn asks if any changes or corrections are needed. No corrections needed.

**II. Approval of September's meeting minutes**

\*Motion to approve the 9/12/23 meeting minutes – Katarina Mansir

Second – Michelle Becker

Motion to approve September's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

**III. Board Reports**

**1. President - Cathryn McFearin:** Pledge Drive, Family Science Night recap, upcoming events

Cathryn introduces herself as the FFC president. Her first update is the pledge drive which started in mid-September and will end on Friday October 13. She is happy to report we have raised about \$55,000.00. Last year we raised \$66,000, so we are a little lower than what we budgeted, but it has really been a success when we look at the amount of participation. People are donating what they can and the amount of participation is really high which is a great indicator that the families are supporting what we are doing and are willing to donate so that we can keep our great programs going. We are trying really hard to promote the corporate match program - companies like Apple, Qualcomm, Johnson & Johnson, to name a few, participate in the program. We haven't seen all the numbers come in from the matches. Cathryn expresses her gratitude and appreciation for the great school we go to with such supportive and generous families. Cathryn also gives thanks to the teachers for helping promote the pledge and for all the videos that went out, and for putting up with all the envelope passing out and collecting. She also shares that we had a friendly competition to see which class turned in all their envelopes first. Mrs. Asdal and Mrs. Harris' classes won, so they got a pizza party at the park.

Cathryn reports that we had our Family Science Night at the end of last month. She was pleased with the experiments that the Fleet Science Center provided and thought they were even more fun than last year. The participation was also great – we had about 240 families RSVP and nearly all attended, so it was great to see everyone come together and participate. She appreciates all the help from the volunteers who helped make it happen, because we couldn't have done it without them.

We have the Tiger Rally coming up on and will be selling t-shirts before the Tiger Rally. We have purchased smaller sizes, about 90, for the UTK-ers. We will have an upcoming spirit week. And we will also have a gardening day, which will be 10/15.

Mrs. Boelzle reports she sent out an email to the staff and there are hopes that other parents will be there and will send another email at the end of the week.

Christina adds that the SRCA also noted the garden day and published it in the SRCA magazine. She is hopeful there might be other community volunteers to help out.

Cathryn announces that Family Dinner Night is coming up on October 18 at On The Border from 4:00-9:00 pm. 20% of all sales will go to the FFC.

She also happy to report that The Kebab Shop Family Dinner Night in September made \$1300 – it was a personal best of any that she has organized.

We will be having the next FFC meeting on November 14, and are hoping to have the December 12 meeting in person and via zoom if needed, so mark your calendar. Perhaps we can have a potluck and fun gathering since we won't have much business/upcoming events to discuss. Mrs. Boelzle says she has experience broadcasting live meetings via zoom due to Covid, so she is happy to help arrange that.

## **2. Vice President - Christina Liu: volunteer reports**

Christina is so excited to report we have over 200 volunteers signed up at Dingeman! She recognizes this as a huge testament to our community and how we are moving forward together. Last year was a success in that we built up interest and community and new ideas, and now this year, we are able to bring back events and try new ones. She gives huge credit to the principal and teachers for getting the word out to the families and for their help pressing the need for volunteers to sign-up on the google volunteer form. Christina adds that she can share the real-time sign-ups with all the teachers so that they know who is willing to help with various things. Christina is now working to make sure those who sign-up to volunteer have filled out the volunteer clearance papers. She notes that the required TB test, if done by blood or skin is valid for 4 years and if done by x-ray is good forever.

Christina is happy to report that every classroom has at least one Art Corps and STEAM representative, and almost all have yearbook and EAR volunteers. She is working with all FFC chairs to harness and utilize all the classroom volunteers who have signed up. She is also always trying to recruit for new FFC board and committee positions as we have a few members graduating out and the FFC is always looking to get new ideas.

Christina ends by encouraging everyone who is interested in volunteering to come talk to her because she loves it.

The volunteer clearance application can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oa9G4oOBUTZEP5lYej\\_n4CDf9hhBG0he/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oa9G4oOBUTZEP5lYej_n4CDf9hhBG0he/view)

Christina gives the yearbook committee report for Anthony who is not in attendance. He will be contacting classroom volunteers with specific emails so that the parents and teachers can email photos into their specific classroom email to be used for creation/formatting of the yearbook page.

### **3. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir: Budget to date**

Katarina starts with a request to faculty for the grade level grants. We need the proposal for the amount requested for each grade so that it can be reviewed and approved and then allocated. Mrs. Becker asks if we know how much each grade will be receiving. Katarina explains that it gets set aside as a budget line in the beginning of the year, and it can be referenced on the proposed budget, or she can look it up, but not sure of the exact numbers at the moment. Dusty notes that he has not gone over the amounts of the grade level grants with the teachers yet, but will make sure to send out the exact dollar amount because he knows the funds will be spent, so they will make sure they get it on paper and approved.

Katarina shares her screen with the financial overview spreadsheet.

Checking Account Starting Balance:	\$164,210.73
Checking Account Ending Balance:	\$200,415.44
Savings Account Balance:	\$30,565.51
Total:	\$230,980.95

Deposits in the amount of \$54,577.06, included t-shirt sales, pledge drive, community service grant, movie night, family dinner nights and corporate matches.

Expenses in the amount of \$18,372.35 included the Fleet Science Center family science night, the annual Art Corps. program cost, planners, and EAR expenses among other things.

### **4. Principal - Dusty Pedrotti**

Mr. Pedrotti starts off by saying how happy he always is to attend these monthly meetings. He shares that when he attended a Scripps Ranch Schools Committee meeting a couple weeks ago, they made note of how much each school relies on the help from their parent/family/faculty organizations. Since we get such minimal funding from the state, it is so nice to be able to provide things like family science night, and even more inspiring to see the amount of volunteers we have to help with these events. Hats off to the FFC for all the work they put in and to the staff who took the initiative this year to get more volunteers to help make our wonderful programs and events possible.

Mr. Pedrotti recognizes that we are a very large school and couldn't do any of it without the help from all the amazing families. He also gives a shout out to the FFC for funding a lot of our educational apps and online programs like Smarty Ants, RAZ Kids, and Achieve 3000. He expresses his appreciation for everything the FFC has made happen this early in the year.

Cathryn gives Mr. Pedrotti a sincere thanks from the FFC and students and families who love seeing him at all the events

#### **5. Staff - Mr. Joe Marsella, Ms. Boelzle, Ms. Becker**

No current feedback or questions.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **1. EAR - Jessica Craig-Huynh**

Jessica is happy to report that we have 21 people signed up to come to the EAR training this Friday, October 13. Four are coming from EBS but she is hopeful that we will have more show up at training and we do have some returning volunteers coming to help with the training. Jessica is very excited about the amount of classroom volunteers we got and understands not everyone will be able to attend the training on Friday, so she plans on having another training later in the year.

Jessica reports that she is very busy getting things up and running again and can always use help organizing the space and supplies. We have a lot of book materials to organize, umbrellas, sandbags and some furniture to set up, but trying to assess the best and safest place to put it all. We want to maximize shade for the students and volunteers and also have it in a space that can be used by others when not in use by EAR.

Jessica gives a huge thank you to Mrs. Becker for recruiting her friends who have come in and helped so much.

The EAR program will start with grades 1 and 2, and the teachers have been given the forms, so she will check in with them and then will need to get the parent consent forms out and back. We will then have volunteers ready to go and she is continually working on bringing EAR to every classroom, but it takes time. She encourages everyone to reach out to her via email with any feedback or questions.

Mr. Pedrotti acknowledges all of Jessica's hard work and thanks her and notes that the umbrellas and chairs look great. He emphasizes what a special and important program EAR is because we need to make sure we can help any students who are not reading at grade level. He gives a thank you to the parents who put in the effort to support the program and especially to Jessica.

Christina adds that the EAR program has such great momentum. In previous years, we had to lay the groundwork/foundation and logistics, but this year we are able to start things off at a higher level and get things moving quicker.

## **2. Art Corps - Lisa Shadburn**

Christina gives the Art Corps report, as Lisa is out of town and not in attendance.

Christina is happy to report that we had volunteers from Pre-K, UTK, K and 1st grade attend the first workshops. She will continue to be at all the workshops to confirm that the people who signed up are attending and that every class has an Art Corps representative. She is pleased that the messaging is working and those signed up to volunteer are cleared and have completed the paperwork.

Christina gives a reminder to the teachers if they have any parents with interest and haven't signed up, have them sign up so they can get on the right email list. Each class will have 5 lessons this year. We are doing round 1 of workshops in October. We do have volunteers to help coordinate the art show in March. Lisa and the Art Corps team are already doing wonderful things. Feel free to email Christina or Lisa with questions.

Mr. Pedrotti questions whether we have coverage for 2nd through 5th grade. Christina clarifies that it is a 2-tier approach. People sign up, and she is making sure that the one who signs up as the lead attends the workshop. If they can't attend the workshop, they need to make arrangements to go to the workshop offered at another school or watch another lead teach the lesson in their class. The same workshops are taught at Westwood and Jerabek if you aren't able to attend the workshop at Dingeman.

## **3. STEAM - Karthika Arunachalam**

Karthika announces that there will be STEAM training on Monday and Tuesday next week. If you can't make it, she will work one-on-one with you. There are still 2 classes without leads.

She notes that the Math Olympiad consent forms will be sent home and the homework links will be provided.

Christina asks if the training is only open to the STEAM leads. Karthika clarifies that anyone can attend, but she will have to make sure there are enough stations since some can only do Monday or Tuesday.

Karthika turns it over to Kelly who has been working on STEAM improvements and new ideas.

Kelly notes the challenges trying to teach the Sphero bot lesson for the younger grades and having enough space and one on one time with the kids, so she tried

different approaches with smaller groups. It was a bit wild trying to teach the lesson and trouble-shoot.

Mrs. Boelzle gives Kelly praise because she knows the kids in Mrs. Tolliver's class enjoyed trying the new approach and got to do some awesome stuff.

Kelly has discussed the option of getting FFC funding for new materials for STEAM challenges. She recognizes that the bots are great, but there are different options out there, so they sent a survey out with different options for the grade levels. They have received all the responses and will roll out new challenges in the Fall, Winter and Spring. She is working on putting together a material list for funding approval. She will also be doing a STEAM challenge training and/or recorded training that will go out to each grade level and then they can come in and gather their supplies. Some ideas for the TKers might be to build their own balloon float. Grades 3-5 might try an egg-drop challenge, science, or engineering-based challenge – something other than the bots. She is hoping a good base is laid and now we can expand and explore the option of funding and grade level grants or expand to whole school. She is also working on a grant, but was asked to resubmit it because they want to give more than what was asked for.

The goal is for 5 steam lessons for each class this year. The amount of bot lessons versus other STEAM challenges will on depend on the teachers and parent/volunteer availability.

#### **4. Boo Bash - Claudine Ricanor**

Boo bash is quickly coming up on 10/20 and hopefully most have started seeing communications. The official flyer will be going out. The event will be held on Friday, 10/20 from 6-8:30, and is open to all. We will have music, food trucks, and trick or treating. It is a great night for families to come together, enjoy, relax, have fun. The Spring Carnival is a fundraiser, whereas the Boo Bash is designed for everyone to come and enjoy a night together.

There will be more information to come, but we will be putting up flyers on campus, advertising via social media and we are hoping to float the information out there via the teachers to the students in the classroom and get them excited about attending. Claudine also wants to emphasis the need for volunteers because it takes a lot of work to get everything set up. We need volunteers for trick or treating, set-up, take down and other activities. There has been a great response for volunteers offering to help, so she hopes we can implement it. We will be offering parking in the faculty lot for anyone coming early to help out. We are encouraging costumes, within the guidelines of the school. We will also be hosting a pumpkin carving contest, so anyone who would like to enter, can drop off their pumpkin by the morning of October 20. It will be judged by a committee and prizes will be given for three different categories.

Claudine also reports that we will be having a Spirit Week, October 16-20.

Mrs. Boelzle asks if the teachers can get the details ASAP so that they can disseminate the information to the students. Claudine confirms she will get the electronic message/information out to teachers and it will also be promoted on social media. There will be a sports day, superhero day, wacky Wednesday, Dingeman day and Halloween theme day.

Question – will there be a trunk or treat? No, just trick or treat stations. The trunk or treat was a huge success, but it is a heavy lift to get people to participate and make it happen. Claudine emphasizes that this year, we are going to do our best to keep it organized, relaxed and have the kids go from trick-or-treat station to station. Last year we ran out of supplies quickly because participants were running around, just grabbing and going back to stations so it was hard to manage and a bit crazy.

Claudine announces that we will have a dance party/DJ in the MPR, and less classroom performances. She will post a FAQ online to help answer any questions people have about the Boo Bash event and reminds everyone to look out for the volunteer form to sign up to help.

Katarina asks if we are doing a costume parade? Dusty confirms the students can wear costumes on Tuesday, 10/31, if they would like to, and they can also wear orange and black on Monday, 10/30.

#### **V. Old Business**

None.

#### **VI. New Business**

The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for the week of parent teacher conferences, November 13-17. The Family Book Fair night will be Thursday, November 16 from 5-7 pm. The library will be open to shop the Book Fair and there will be student performances, a winter theme and the 5th grade promotion committee will be selling treats and hot chocolate.

We will also be hosting a food drive to benefit the San Diego Food Bank from November 6-17. The big red barrels will be set up or you can make monetary donations online.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**

#### **Attendants:**

Dusty Pedrotti  
Cathryn McFearin  
Angie Couvrette  
Amy Boelzle

Michelle Becker  
Katarina Mansir  
Joe Marsella  
Ivy Lam  
Christina Liu  
Jessica Craig-Huynh  
N. Martinez  
Israel  
Karthika Arunachalam  
Claudine Ricanor Kollmeyer  
Kelly Cortese  
Greg Cortese  
Arthur Liu  
Kay  
Nikki Wang  
Dewi Navarro  
Vijay  
iphone