

**Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Meeting
December 12, 2023
In Person at Dingeman Elementary and Via Zoom**

I. Call to Order

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin at 5:36 p.m. on December 12, 2023.

Thank you for our very first in-person/Zoom meeting – it has been since March 2020 since we sat in this room together.

First item of business is to approve the November meeting minutes. If no corrections, Cathryn requests a motion to approve.

II. Approval of November meeting's minutes

*Motion to approve the 11/14/23 meeting minutes – Christina Liu

Second – Ivy Lam

Motion to approve November's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

III. Committee Reports

1. EAR - Jessica Craig-Huynh

Jessica is happy report that we have a lot of volunteers and are close to having at least one volunteer in every classroom. There isn't too much new to report since last month. We are getting started in the Kinder and UTK classes, and some kids are being read with a couple times a week.

She held her first EAR coffee chat. There were only 4 in attendance, but it is a start and she is hoping to have more so that people can share ideas and help each other. Things are moving along and she has a strong team working really hard to make the EAR program a success.

Mr. Pedrotti adds that he really appreciates the work and effort going into this program. It is really great to see all of the volunteers and is happy that we are working with the 4th and 5th graders, as well, so that they can get the support they need and the opportunity to get caught up.

Jessica adds that they have had to operate a little different this year because we have so many volunteers, which adds to the coordination, but we are getting there and will continue to roll on. She is hopeful they will hold on to the volunteers next year.

2. Art Corps – Lisa Shadburn

Lisa is happy to report that there are so many wonderful things happening in the Art Corps program. We have fewer lessons this year but the lessons are great and the projects are beautiful and she is getting great feedback from the teachers. We will be having a meeting for the Art Show soon.

She is putting an SOS call out for volunteers for the Art Corps admin team and leads. We started off with some great volunteers ready to take on the positions but things have come up, so we are still looking for a Head Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator for next year and still need a Volunteer Coordinator for this year.

We are so happy we have a new supply coordinator, Nesra, who has been amazing.

Christina adds that our first Family Art Night was a huge success with tons of families there and Mr. Pedrotti and Ms. Miller in attendance as well. We will be having more Family Art Nights in January, February and March, so be on the look-out for the sign-up/registration. If you attended the December Family Art Night, priority will be given to those who have not attended.

Lisa ends by thanking Christina and Joanne and adds that not all schools hold even a single Family Art Night, and we started with 3 and have now added a 4th. The FFC is going above and beyond to provide the activities and events that the families enjoy.

3. STEAM - Karthika Ramesh, Kelly Cortese

Karthika reports that everything is going as planned. She would like a few volunteers to take the lead/run the Makerspace. She goes in when she can, but if someone can step up and do it, it would really help.

The Math Olympiad has started and it was a little tough. She hopes the kids know it is just an opportunity to go in and think and try to solve for 30 minutes, it isn't about winning or getting your name out there. There will be 4 more tests and then it will be done in March.

We will start coaching early for Noetic Math and it is best if we can do it at school because there have been complaints about doing it outside of school.

Kelly announces that they will roll out the next STEAM challenge; didn't get it done before the break because of time constraints. She is making sure the supplies are ready for the 2nd round. UTK, K, 1st and 2nd are working on problem solving and they have extra supplies.

She is happy to announce that we will be receiving a \$10,000 grant for a 3D printer and supplies. Otterbox emailed her this week letting her know we were awarded the sum, which is more than what she initially asked for. We will be getting two 3D

printers and very nice carts. Her and her husband Greg will work with the teachers to get a sign-up system set up and some initial training for the printers.

Mrs. Becker inquires about how the teachers will get notified or how to sign-up and wonders how they can help.

Kelly suggests a staff meeting that her and/or Greg could help show how they work in general, but thankfully these are really nice printers and don't require a lot of set-up. She isn't sure how loud they are but guessing it is just a little hum. She acknowledges that it can be distracting if it is running in the class when the first few projects are done printing because the kids will be really excited to see the final project, but after the first few, the novelty will wear off. We will work on a check-out system – one can be taken to the classroom on the cart or if you don't want it running in the room, use the one in the Makerspace.

Dusty adds that we can work on a fact/instruction sheet or something that shows examples of the project print time, etc.

4. Yearbook - Anthony Eusebio

Anthony reports that the classroom links were sent out this week to the Yearbook volunteers, if no volunteer, then they were sent to the room parents and/or teacher. It isn't necessary to get the photos organized until February, but many people have been asking.

A Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”) page will be going out for how to build the page. The due date for the completed page won't be until after Spring Break, around April 7, 2024.

IV. Board Reports

1. Staff - Mr. Marsella, Ms. Boelzle, Ms. Becker

Mrs. Becker shares that the staff says thank you and that they are happy to see everyone on campus.

One concern that was brought up is the lunch arbor. She is wondering if it is something that can be handled by the FFC or if it is a school site/facilities thing, since some kids are in the sun and some in the shade, rain, etc., so it is a concern for the students' safety.

2. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir

Katarina shares her screen with the financial overview spreadsheet for November 2023. *Hard copies of the Budget vs. Actuals Report are provided to the participants at the meeting.

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| Checking Account Starting Balance: | \$209,887.47 |
| Checking Account Ending Balance: | \$219,493.25 |
| Savings Account Balance: | \$30,566.54 |
| Total: | \$250,059.79 |

Expenses in the amount of \$1,943.64 included STEAM challenge supplies, a 3rd grade classroom reimbursement, and a cash withdrawal for the book fair. The proceeds of the book fair are noted in the deposits – we generated about \$14,000 in sales and profited about \$8,000.

Deposits in the amount of \$14,780.13 included corporate matches/pledge drive/parent donations, earnings from the Scholastic Book Fair and 5th Grade Committee fundraising.

There was a snafu with a Benevity corporate match, which had to be pulled out but will be put back.

3. Vice President - Christina Liu

Nothing new to report.

4. President - Cathryn McFearin

Cathryn wants to keep it short and thanks everyone for a very successful school year – we did a lot of stuff and have a lot of plans for next year. She gives her appreciation to everyone and wishes all a happy holiday.

5. Principal - Dusty Pedrotti

Mr. Pedrotti starts by acknowledging the Math Olympiad test was hard – he read it before hand – but thankfully there wasn't a lot of crying. He is pleased that Mrs. Harris has agreed to be the proctor and is in charge of administering the Math Olympiad test. It is just meant to be a good exercise for the kids, to take 30 minutes to try to solve the problems, it isn't meant to stress the kids out or worry about winning an award.

Mr. Pedrotti adds that it is so helpful to have funds from the FFC because there will be budget cuts due to the extra Covid funds being eliminated. It is helpful to have the input from the families and staff on the priorities/needs of our students so that we can plan ahead and budget for the most important things. He is hopeful there won't be any staff cuts and that we can keep our counselor 5 days a week and the teachers' PE prep time. We will be getting a VAPA teacher two days a week; and teachers will get the prep time while the students are exposed to various arts.

Mr. Pedrotti adds that the funds for the licenses to our educational computer apps like Achieve, RAZ Kids, Smarty Ants are such a huge benefit, especially since students can use the programs if they need to go out on a contract.

Mr. Pedrotti recognizes the hard work that went into the STEAM/3D printer grant proposal. He was thrilled when they learned they got it. He knows Jerabek has one so he will reach out to them to get advice on how best to use it.

Mr. Pedrotti gives a shout out to all of the 5th grade teachers for completing the Star of India overnight field trip. It is a really great privilege that we wouldn't be able to offer to the students if the teachers weren't on board.

Mrs. Becker thanks all the parent volunteers who went on the trip because without 8 volunteers per class, they wouldn't be able to do it, so a huge thank you to them.

A few more things coming up will be an in-person principal/associate principal meeting – similar to the zoom coffee chats he hosted in previous years. He will be resending the important needs assessment survey to families to get their input for the budget. There is also an ELAC meeting and SSC meeting coming up.

V. New Business

Ms. Miller is happy to report that the School Safety Patrol Squad is up for Top Patrol of the SDUSD and was nominated by their Division Officer. She adds that the students have really excelled and done an amazing job learning all of the rules and procedures. There was a surprise visit/inspection and after he observed them, he gave a good report and said they did really well. The San Diego Police Department is having a huge holiday party for the Safety Patrol this Saturday and the winner for the Top Patrol will be announced.

Ms. Miller also proudly notes that Dingeman's Captain Arabella Liu applied for the Colonel position and went through the interview process and we will find out the results for that at the ceremony. Ms. Miller thanks Christina Liu who was a huge help in training and supporting the kids, and ends by recognizing that the squad is already a winner for all their hard work and independence thus far.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Attendants:

In Person

Dusty Pedrotti
Cathryn McFearin
Ivy Lam
Jessica Craig-Huynh
Katarina Mansir
Nesra Senol
Karthika Ramesh

Ashely Nover
Christina Liu
Amy Boelzle
Kelly Cortese
Michellse Becker
Linnea Miller
Eydie Strouse
Lisa Shadburn
Breneee Ulman

Via Zoom

Angie Couvrette
Anthony Eusubio
Vijay
N. Martinez