

Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Board Meeting

November 9, 2022

I. **Call to order**

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:32 p.m

Cathryn welcomes everyone to our November FFC meeting. Apologizes for her camera not working.

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

*Motion to approve the 10/12/22 meeting minutes – Jessica Craig-Huynh

Second – Christina Liu

Motion to approve October's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

III. **Board Reports**

1. **President - Cathryn McFearin**

Food Drive, Family Science Night, Family Dinner Night, Book Fair and Book Fair Night

We have big red barrels in front of the school by the office and one in the back of the school. We are collecting dried foods for the San Diego Food Bank. We are collecting food for people in our community for those experiencing hunger. You can also give online instead of doing extra shopping. There is a link in social media. Every dollar donated provides 2 meals.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the FFC is sponsoring family science night. Two educators from the Fleet Science Center will be there to train volunteers to run the different activities. Doors will open at 5:30 and the activities will run until 7:00 – you can come any time in that time period – just allow enough time to do all the activities. Cathryn is very excited to have it back, but we are still short volunteers – especially for Wednesday night. Please lend your time, if you can, because we can't do the evening without volunteers. The activities will be in the library and MPR. The 5th grade promotion committee will be selling snacks and drinks to raise money for the 5th grade promotion.

Question – do you have to RSVP to attend? Yes, per Cathryn – an email has gone out and a confirmation will go out once you RSVP, and you have to bring it to the event.

Question – will you accept high school volunteers? Yes, per Cathryn, she reached out to ROTC at the High School and other organizations. Pass it along to any high school aged kids who might want to earn some volunteer hours.

It will also be Family Dinner Night at Rubios on Wednesday, November 16, starting at 4:00. Part of the proceeds will go to the FFC.

The 5th grade promotion committee is organizing an e-recycling event. It will be held from 8:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. All electronics are free to drop off. They only charge to shred \$5-\$10 per bankers box. Giving back 7 cents per pound. It will be in the school parking lot. We will advertise soon.

Questions – will batteries and lightbulbs be accepted? Cathryn was not sure.

Also in December – Mrs. Daversa is organizing a book fair. We are doing it different than in the spring with scholastic. She is trying out a new company. Students will have an opportunity to shop during the day. We think we will also open it up after school. The exciting Family Book Fair Night event will be on Thursday, December 8. There will be performances by the Honor Choir and ukulele students and a few other classes. Families can enjoy the performances and then look around the book fair and shop. The 5th grade promotion committee will be selling snacks and drinks at that event as well. It will be fun to get together and shop before Christmas. 50% of all proceeds will go to books for the library. We will need help setting up that day for the Family Night – so if anyone can come early to help set up and also to help run the registers and check people out.

2. Vice President - Christina Liu

A huge shout out to all our volunteers - especially room parents for disseminating all of the information and helping with the trunk or treat at the Boo Bash. The trunk or treat took a huge and unexpected effort, so she is appreciative to the room parents and volunteers for their effort. Also thankful to all the parent volunteers - STEAM leaders are working hard and training and starting lessons.

Christina relayed the Art Corp. update on behalf of Lisa Shadburn

Parent workshops have already started. She attended the last 4th/5th grade lesson. We are still looking for more volunteers for a few more classrooms so that they can get lessons. We don't want parents to feel alone when teaching the lessons, so we are working on getting a volunteer bank who are willing to go into other classrooms to help. She gives a huge plug to everyone who participated in Family Art Night – it was such a huge success – thanks to Vanessa, Ivy and others who helped set up tables early in the MPR and library. The workshop leader said that our school was by far the most organized. Everyone showed up except 2 families. 120 people were accommodated. Thank you to everyone who helped/participated. We will have 2 more in 2023 - January and February. We will have sign ups at the same time so that families can choose, and we can get everyone through.

Cathryn thanks Christina for all her hard work.

Christina is planning a fun Dingeman community event on December 3, at 3:00. We will gather at a park (TBD) and then walk over to Merritage and enjoy the holiday lights.

3. **Treasurer - Katarina Mansir**

Monthly Budget Review

Checking \$237,780.09

Savings \$30,560.01

Some of our expenditures in October totaling \$7,130.36 were for spirit wear, website renewal, insurance, cardio club supplies, hospitality events for teachers and staff and the volunteer fair. Also, classroom support, planners, family art nights, family fall night/boo bash and family science night.

Some of our deposits/revenue totaling \$23,945.81 were from the pledge drive, Level Up fall session, family dinner night, corporate matches and a service grant for volunteering. We also had art night donations and profit from spirit gear sales.

4. **Principal - Dusty Pedrotti**

Boo Bash was an awesome event – he was even surprised at the number of families that attended. Claudine worked really hard on everything. It was great to see everyone having such a great time.

We had our first family gardening day planned by Ms. Boezele. We cleaned up some beautiful benches and large gardening boxes. A lot of people showed up and worked really hard cleaning up the boxes, benches and butterfly garden.

Parent/Teacher conferences are next week. The upper grade teachers have a lot of families to meet with, around 32-34, so some have even started their conferences this week. We will have all modified days Monday-Friday.

Dusty is super happy voting is over. He is happy to help the community, but various unfortunate events happened, so he is just glad to have MPR back.

He gives a big thank you to all our volunteers – he knows so much work goes into everything, and the emails, etc. He really appreciates everything you do for our school.

IV. **Committee Reports**

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

EAR is moving along - we are working with 1st and 2nd grades and hope to start 3rd in January. She has been working really hard on the training process and also has quite a few who are scheduled and reading with students and more that are at some stage in the process. Thank you to the volunteers and teachers for their help. There are lots of people helping with lots of moving parts. We are trying a lot of new things, involving future trainings, observations and storage of the supplies. We had a big training and have some that want to get started and others are still thinking about it. She is still working

on creating a consistent schedule for 2nd grade. For 1st grade, we have a consistent schedule with volunteers reading with students 2x per week. Jessica is happy to report that we have almost double the number of volunteers that we had last year.

Dusty commented that he really appreciates all the volunteers – he was touched to see we even had people coming and reading in the rain huddled up outside the classroom. He also appreciates the teacher’s flexibility and volunteer schedules.

2. **Art Corps - Lisa Shadburn**

Update given by Christina Liu earlier in the meeting.

3. **STEAM - Karthika Arunachalam**

We had a lot of classrooms in the makerspace using the equipment. Parents are excited to get going. As information and communication comes in, she is passing along to the teachers. The training sessions will wrap up tomorrow. She is getting good feedback on the lesson plans with the new technology. They are making different plans for lower grades and upper grades.

Mr. Pedrotti is working out the Math Olympiad. A Noetic Math interest survey will be sent out, with lessons starting in January and testing in April

Question - Will information be going to the 5th grade classes? Mrs. Becker requests that information be sent to all 5th grade teachers so that they can forward to the families. Karthika confirms that Mr. Pedrotti handles the communication and emails to the teachers.

Diane to send out information for Math Olympiad. It is open to all 4th and 5th grade students. We had about 100 students interested and we need to build teams. The first test will be on Thursday, December 1, at Dingeman. Dusty has been practicing the tests and reviewing the information so that he can work with and train the students.

Cathryn gives a huge thank you to Karthika for all her hard work with the STEAM program.

Questions –Will there be any STEAM winter activities? Mr. Pedrotti to give approval. We can probably use MPR, get as many volunteers as possible and have a fun holiday/science night

V. **Old Business**

No old business.

VI. **New Business**

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Attendants:

Dusty Pedrotti

Angie Couvrette

Jessica Craig-Huynh

Christina Liu

Katarina Mansir

Joe Marsella

Ivy Lam

Cathryn McFearin

Michelle Becker

Mahnaz Rahimi

N. Martinez

Marian Eusebio

Vanessa Samulis

Keith D. Hughes

Kelly and Greg Cortese

Karthika Arunachalam