

**Dingeman Family Faculty Connection General Membership Meeting  
November 14, 2023  
Via Zoom**

**I. Call to Order**

Call to order by Cathryn McFearin at 6:36 p.m. on November 14, 2023.

First order of business is to approve last meeting's minutes. Does anyone have any corrections?

No corrections to be noted.

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

\*Motion to approve the 10/10/23 meeting minutes – Dusty Pedrotti

Second – Christina Liu

Motion to approve October's meeting minutes passed unanimously.

**III. Board Reports**

**1. President - Cathryn McFearin: Food Drive, Book Fair and Family Night, 5th Grade (Square 1 Art & eWaste), December hybrid meeting, online merch store**

We will be having our food drive through the end of the week, Friday, 11/17. The Scholastic Book Fair is currently running and we will be holding after school sales tomorrow and then the Family Book Fair night on Thursday, November 16 from 5:00-7:00 pm. There will be poetry performances by Mrs. Leichthy's class, the Honor Choir and Kindergarten classes. Come dressed in your winter attire for the event. We will have a parents only shopping time on Friday morning and then tear down the Fair. Cathryn gives a huge shout out to Ivy who had to step in and run the whole thing because Mrs. Daversa was sick.

Cathryn shares the current and upcoming 5th grade fundraisers. The deadline to place Square 1 Art orders is 11/30, so be sure to order your child's cute artwork – they make for really great gifts. The 5th grade class receives a certain amount back from all orders placed. We also have the eWaste event happening on December 2 from 8:00-3:00. You can bring anything with a plug to dispose/recycle and then there are services you can pay for like paper shredding or battery disposal. A portion of the proceeds goes back to the 5th grade class.

Cathryn announces that the December meeting will be 12/12 – hybrid - in person and zoom – and we are moving up the time to 5:00. We will start with a mini potluck – bring an appetizer or side dish to share. We will start the meeting at 5:30 and won't have a ton to cover, so it will be a fun way to wrap up the year. Location TBD.

Cathryn also announces that starting next week – we will have a new online merchandise store featuring t-shirts and gear with a new design by a Dingeman parent, Dora Rowe. Your order will be shipped directly to you and it cuts out the work for the middleman. Be on the lookout for an email with the link.

## **2. Vice President - Christina Liu: Winter Social**

Christina starts with a quick reminder to get your volunteer paperwork turned in so that you can volunteer. The needed items are the completed application, copy of TB test and government ID. You can turn into Ms. Donna either in person in the front office or via email. It takes about a week to process so get them in now so that she isn't overwhelmed just before the holiday parties.

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 is happy to announce we will be having a winter social at Sycamore Canyon Park on Saturday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m., similar to last year. We will socialize, have hot cocoa and then go travel around Merritage Court to see the lights and maybe do some caroling.

Christina reports for Anthony Eusubio, the yearbook chair, that the links for classroom photo submissions will be emailed out in December.

Cathryn also reminds everyone that we will be having the school gardening day on Saturday, December 2 and will confirm the details with Ms. Boelzle.

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

Katarina reports that they have been working on the taxes behind the scenes. If anyone would like to review, let her know and she can provide a draft. She expresses her gratitude to Mia who has graciously continued to prepare our taxes. And she gives a big shout out to Kim Kennelly who has stepped up as the auditor. She has been sending her tables and Kim has been reviewing the tables and double-checking transactions and confirming everything lines up. The tables we are familiar with might change a bit, and be a little harder for us, but it is intended to make it easier for her to do the audit.

Katarina shares her screen with the financial overview spreadsheet for October 2023.

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Checking Account Starting Balance: | \$200,415.44 |
| Checking Account Ending Balance:   | \$209,887.47 |
| Savings Account Balance:           | \$30,566.04  |
| Total:                             | \$240,453.51 |

Deposits in the amount of \$14,780.13, included parent pledge donations and corporate matches. We also had spirit gear sales deposits, and family dinner night at On the Border.

Expenses in the amount of \$5,308.10 included FFC insurance, hospitality, classroom reimbursements, Fall family event, art supplies and a payment to Champion for smaller size t-shirts.

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

Mr. Pedrotti starts by giving a huge shout out to all the volunteers. He is so pleased to see that we have more people stepping up to volunteer and help. He is so happy to see all of the EAR volunteers coming in, there are sometimes 5-6 of them coming on campus to help read with the students, and knows EAR is such an important program because students need support in different ways, and he is so happy the EAR program is providing this extra reading support.

Mr. Pedrotti also gives thanks to the FFC for providing extra funds to help classrooms go on field trips and for helping cut the expense of buses and entry fees. He encourages everyone to get their volunteer application in so that they will be cleared if there is a field trip they want to go on. It takes a lot of work to clear the volunteers, so get your paperwork in now.

Mr. Pedrotti gives a shout out to his associate principal Ms. Linnea Miller. One thing she has been tasked with is leading the School Safety Patrol ("SSP"). Mr. Pedrotti has led it in the past and knows how much work goes into it. He is proud to say that the SSP squad has been nominated for top patrol squad in San Diego and it is all thanks to her efforts.

Ms. Miller recognizes the help she has received partnering with Christina to train and support the SSP.

Mr. Pedrotti also recognizes what a good team they make. Ms. Miller is a true example of teaching kids how to be independent, shown by the way she handles things in the morning with safety patrol and at lunch time.

Mr. Pedrotti announces that we have a new teacher, Mr. Romo, because we were over in class size in 1st and 2nd grade. He is pleased to have him on campus.

Mr. Pedrotti closes by recognizing Mr. Joe and all his hard work. It is wonderful to see what our students are coming into Kindergarten with and it is due to all the work they are doing in the primary grades, PreK and UTK. Speaking of UTK, we are staying at 4 classes and will not be taking on a 5th class.

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

Mr. Joe gives his gratitude to Mr. Pedrotti and Ms. Miller.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

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

Jessica expresses her gratitude for everyone here and at school – she has a long list to thank. She starts by sharing the history of EAR at Dingeman. It started in 2019-2020, when we had 4 volunteers who were reading with kids; then the Pandemic hit, and in 2021-2022 we were up to 7 or 8 volunteers reading with kids and a couple volunteers helping with the books/supplies. Last year we had about 12-14 volunteers and this year, we have 12 signed up for first grade, 8 reading with kids in 2nd grade, 4 working with 3rd grade and some working with 4th grade. In addition to that, Christina has been working with UTK and Kinder. And there are an additional 10 volunteers in the queue.

We had a training on the 13th and had about 30 new volunteers come, in addition to the returning volunteers there to help. And we had another 11 come on the 9th. We have a lot going on and there is a lot that goes into it to get everyone trained, so we have to go in steps. We have been trying to focus on 1st and 2nd grade, and she is so pleased that we have a lot of people willing to put their heart and soul into it and help.

Jessica is also pleased to report that in the discussions with volunteers, there are some who want to come help their own children and their classroom and others that want to come help other students. She is hoping to have further discussions throughout the year or maybe an EAR coffee meeting to figure out how best to support the kids.

She is also pleased to announce that we have an increase in the number of community volunteers – we are up to 6 reading with kids with more coming in.

Jessica adds that her and Mr. Pedrotti are continually talking about new ideas and working really hard, and might be able to do some themed reading weeks in the future.

Cathryn thanks Jessica.

##### **2. Art Corps - Lisa Shadburn: Family Art Night**

Lisa is not in attendance so Christina gives the update.

This year we are bringing back 4 family art nights starting in December and going through Spring. The first one will be held on December 6. You will be able to choose 1 of 3 lessons and then do that lesson as a family together. We will post more information on social media and send out the sign-ups.

Christina posts the information in the chat:

Wed, 12/6 6:15-7:30, 3 lessons:

Jim Dine Heart • Claude Monet Boats • Pablo Picasso Cubist Face

### **3. STEAM - Karthika Arunachalam, Kelly Cortese: lessons underway, STEAM Challenges**

Karthika is not in attendance so Cathryn gives the update.

Lessons are progressing and they are doing them in various formats. It is always so nice to see the students utilizing the MakerSpace and we are so happy to have that space to work in.

There are still some classes that don't have STEAM volunteers, so we are hoping to fill those spots.

A new Chromebook was bought because we had issues with the old laptops purchased in 2020 and now they are not supported, so hopefully we will have a more functional computer after the Fall break.

The first Math Olympiad will be held on November 30.

Mr. Pedrotti adds that Math Olympiad is a contest that 4th and 5th grade students can participate in and we currently have 3 teams of almost 35 students each. Mrs. Harris is taking on Math Olympiad, thankfully, because Noetic Math is also coming up very soon. Mrs. Harris will be sending out study materials but most importantly, we want the students not to stress and just do their best in the first contest at the end of the month.

Cathryn adds that Mrs. Harris has mentioned the Piper computers might need additional parts/maintenance so we will be looking into the budget for that. And she shares Karthika's well wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and that she is truly grateful beyond words to be at Dingeman.

Cathryn introduces Kelly Cortese, who is leading a new exciting part of STEAM this year and turns it over to her.

Kelly shares that she has researched and is rolling out STEAM challenges that can be done with each of the lower grade levels – hopefully 3 for each grade. Some examples are build your own spider web, build a tall tower or build a bridge, etc. The point is to let the kids address a problem or challenge without being given step by step directions; allowing them to do the heavy lifting; use specific materials to find a solution to a problem; and/or do a task to complete the event.

She is happy to share that they have rolled them out and many classes are participating. We will hopefully come up with a tracking system to know which classes

have done what, but she was happy to see that the bins were opened and looked like they were being used.

Katarina adds that she watched the students do a challenge in Mrs. Leichthy's class – the video and supplies are there and it was easy and the kids got to problem solve together; work together; counting and encouraging together; great package that we can carry on and thinks it gives another option for volunteers to help with STEAM.

Mr. Pedrotti adds his appreciation to Kelly and knows a lot of work went into creating the challenges and has already seen how beneficial it is, as he has seen the students and parents come in to try these challenges and it is a great addition to the makerspace and gives the students an opportunity to come in and build their Leprechaun trap or whatever it might be and there are no mistakes, they just get to problem solve. He has received a lot of positive feedback and thanks Kelly for all she is doing.

Kelly adds that she will be submitting the 3D printer grant on Friday. She is still looking for feedback for one portion of it but will then submit. She ended up asking for \$10K for 2 3D printers; 2 stands, a lot of filament; and very specific kits.

Cathryn thanks her for all she's done.

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

None.

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

There will be an Internet Safety Tech Talk held for free via Zoom on 12/5 at 6:00 pm. Zoom info will be sent out after fall break.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.**

#### **Attendants:**

Dusty Pedrotti  
Cathryn McFearin  
Angie Couvrette  
Christina Liu  
Joe Marsella  
Katarina Mansir  
Jessica Craig-Huynh  
Kelly Cortese  
Greg Cortese

Ivy Lam  
Arthur Liu  
Linnea Miller  
Vijay  
Nesra Senol