

Dondero PTA – September 20th 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21st, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Cafeteria

Purpose: This is the 1st General PTA Meeting of the 2021-2022 school year.

Executive Board Attendees/Invitees

Name	Present	Contact	Capacity
Alexis Lang	Yes	alexis.lang@comcast.net	President
Jana Goldstein	Yes	janakgoldstein@gmail.com	Vice President
Jannice Hodges	Yes	jannicehodges@gmail.com	Treasurer
Sarah Lynch	Yes	sarahalibby@yahoo.com	Secretary
Kate Callahan	Yes	kcallahan@sau52.org	Principal

Agenda

Welcome
Approval of June 2021 Minutes
Principal's Report
Treasurer's Report
Back to School Forms
Dine out for Dondero
 Roger's Redline Diner 9/22
Mums Sale
 Pick Up 9/29, volunteers needed
Teacher Appreciation
School Picture Day
 10/8, 3 volunteers needed
Square 1 Art
Playground/Grounds
Volunteer with the PTA
Fall Fest
 10/22, committee needed
Yearbook
 Committee needed

Questions/Comments

Next Meeting: October 21st

Email us at donderopta@gmail.com

Discussion

- The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by PTA President, Alexis Lang.
- Quorum obtained; five out of five members of the Executive Board were present.
- June 2021 PTA Minutes were distributed for review. Minutes approved.

Principal Report- Kate Callahan

- Enrollment has gone up from 289 at the end of last year to 320. Students are adjusting to larger cohorts and class sizes. Academics are being rolled out slowly as students acclimate to classroom expectations.
- 5th grade is partnering with White Pines for a district wide "Wild Recess" program. Students will engage in cooperative games incorporating role play and outdoor education. Program curriculum will build up to the fifth grade trip to Ecology school. The district has decided to use the Urban Forestry for all three schools to ensure all

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students are experiencing the same curriculum in the same outdoor environment. Principals are currently working on bussing options and funds. This year 5th grade teachers are moving instead of the students for the different subjects.

- Kindergarten is working on basic routines.
- 1st Grade is rolling along.
- 2nd grade has smaller class numbers due to the overall number of students and the 4 classes.
- 3rd grade staff is working as a team in regards to content and curriculum. They are also engaging in “Wednesdays without Walls”. Students are walking to the Urban Forestry Center for an outdoor program that ties in with their science curriculum.
- 4th grade has a new special education case manager to help with the large number of students in 4th grade with IEPs. 4th grade teachers are also working as a team for content.
- Kate and the art teacher Adam Bastille are working on a grant for an outdoor art studio that should be completed this year.

Treasurer’s Report- Jannice Hodges

- Spent so far: \$57 on popsicle party, \$189 on popcorn supplies, \$2000 on teacher appreciation gift cards (\$50 each), \$120 for Cheddar Up annual fee and \$25 for Quick Books monthly fee.
- Money made so far: \$3500 in popcorn (233 people prepaid) 19 scholarships donated for students unable to pay for popcorn, \$169 from Amazon Smiles purchases

Back to School Forms- Alexis

- Forms have been turned in. If parents want to prepay for popcorn at a later date, the rate can be prorated.

Dine out for Dondero- Jess

- Roger’s Redline Diner 9/22-10% of total lunch and dinner sales will be donated to the PTA.
- Vida in lined up for 10/20th.
- Dough will do November.

Mum Sale- Alexis

- \$2250 sold in plants, \$1125 will go to the PTA. 250 plants sold.
- 9/29 Pick up from 10:30-11:30 and 12:15-1:30 to accommodate early release dismissal. 5 volunteers needed. Alexis to send out a sign up genius.

Teacher Appreciation- Sarah Duddy-Vaillancourt

- Instead of celebrating teacher appreciation for one week out of the year, the Dondero PTA decided a while back to celebrate our teachers all year long.
- So far the committee has provided staff with a grab and go breakfast on the 2nd day back in school.
- Bathrooms have been stocked with toiletry baskets and inspirational posters.
- Next week the committee will provide a deli platter luncheon for the early release day.
- Committee consists of Kristen Shiner, Heather Robinson, and Tricia Anderson. More volunteers are welcome.

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School Picture Day- 10/8

- 3 volunteers needed to ensure students are looking their best. Photos will be taken of all 19 classes from 8:20-11:40 in the gym. Alexis to send out a sign up genius for volunteers.

Square 1 Art- Jannice

- Fundraiser where students create art that can be purchased on mugs, magnets etc.
- K-2nd will be working on the project with Adam during class. 3rd-5th graders will watch a video and complete the project at home.
- Orders will arrive 11/15 in time for holiday gifts

Playground/Grounds- Alice

- 5 years ago Alice pitched the idea of an outdoor classroom at the first PTA meeting of 2016. Since then outdoor education has become an integral part of Dondero's identity with the nature playground, a 4 season outdoor classroom, the outdoor education curriculum, and the now many forest programs being offered at the school. Alice ran a free program last year for kids who could not be in the classroom but could not be at home. Currently Alice and Dawn Jenkins from Eyes of the World are offering a program on Monday afternoons, Sarah Brown runs an equity program on Tuesdays, and White Pines is offering a program on Wednesdays.
- Amber Buttermore has spearheaded the fundraising efforts for the playground which we hope to resume this year. The smaller tunnel on the playground needs to be revitalized and we'd like to order two net swings. These projects alone will cost around \$45K before equipment is installed. Ideas for fundraising efforts are always welcome! Email Alice Carey at seacoastwander@gmail.com or Amber Buttermore at amberpeacock@hotmail.com to volunteer with ground maintenance or fundraising.
- Grounds Maintenance- Jana
 - Storywalk, front circle, and gardens need routine maintenance. Faith Masterson a 2nd grade teacher coordinates the garden maintenance.

Volunteering for PTA

- Even if you can't make the meetings, the PTA is always looking for help that can be done at home or at different hours of the day. Whether you can donate money, make food, or have the time to help out at school, anything helps.

Fall Fest 10/22

- In 2019 we held a very successful Fall Festival with a Halloween theme from 5:30-7:30. Students had a costume dance contest with a dj from Roller Coaster at 3s Artspace. There was a cake walk, raffle baskets, face painting, pumpkin decorating, donuts on a string contest, as well as hot dog meals and donuts from Cogdons. Committee volunteers are needed to plan this year's event. Leslie Scuderi and Jess Harris volunteered to help and also suggested adding a fairy house station. We will need someone to take photos of the night for yearbook.

Yearbook

- Committee needed. Leslie Scuderi volunteered to help- she has experience with Tree Ring doing yearbooks for other schools. Kate will reach out to the current fall extracurricular coordinators to make sure the activities are being photographed for yearbook. She will also reach out to the high school to see if the photography students would like to act as interns and photograph various events this year at Dondero.

Miscellaneous

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- Popcorn cleaning crew volunteers needed
- PTA calendar is currently on our web page but will eventually be moved to Parent Square as well as all cheddar up forms.
- 11/2 election to be held at Dondero. PTA to organize a bake sale. Alexis will send out a sign up genius.

Next Meeting: October 21st, hybrid model in library with option to zoom in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Submitted by: Sarah Lynch, Dondero PTA Secretary

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