

Delaware Military Academy PTA Minutes

February 15, 2018

Attendees: See sign in sheet.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

- Tatiana Rice brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Kelly Coffee, Region II VP for Delaware PTA

- Kelly introduced herself. She is the Region II (mostly Red Clay) VP for the Delaware PTA. She is our liaison to the PTA. She has been a former PTA President and is quite familiar with the ins-and-outs of the job. Delaware PTA will be holding its annual Convention at St. Geroge's Technical High School on Saturday, April 28. Each local PTA is required to send at least one person to Convention. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Also, every PTA member across the state is invited to attend PTA Day in Dover on May 9 from 9am to 2pm. Lunch is provided. This is a great way to see what happens with our government at a local level.

Antony Pulella, Commandant's Report

- Annual Inspection is coming up the middle of March. Inspections have been ratcheting up as we have needed some help with grooming and with morning formation.
- The Florida shooting has been discussed with cadets. There are cadets that have expressed concerns about safety and security and have come to the administration with questions. Safety is a huge priority. In addition to active shooter drills, we have had one real-life active-shooter-in-the-area that we responded to and overall the school did very well. In light of the current concerns, additional drills need to be considered.
- Interim reports went out last Friday, overall the school did very well. We had very few Academic Review Boards - the Academic Review Boards should not be looked at as punishment. It is an opportunity for us to meet with struggling cadets to find a best path forward. The dual enrollment program seems to be running smoothly; the guidance office is to be commended for putting this in place.
- We have wrapped up the interview process for the Class of 2022. Notifications of acceptance have gone out. Historically, about 20% of those will decline the invitation and we proceed to the waiting list to fill those slots. About 130 of the 153 spots were extended to in-district students.
- Expansion to enrollment is on hold. When the dome was built it was a scaled down model of what was originally envisioned. The new space allowed us to get all of our teachers into classrooms but there are no empty spaces for additional classrooms. Expanding the enrollment would just put us back to where we were before the dome was built with not enough space.
- Sports fields are on track - grounds will be worked on beginning in April and should be finished by August.
- We are at the \$11million mark for this graduating class with regard to scholarships.
- We have about 85 cadets who are parking on school grounds that have not paid to park. This creates a dilemma as we don't want them parking in the neighborhood so kicking them off school property isn't an option. The parking fee will be added to the admin fee as a way to combat this issue.
- The Dance last Friday was great - shout out to Jimmy and the PTA.

Secretary:

- Tatiana Rice, President, provided the January 2018 meeting minutes. Mary Ellen with the 1st motion and Kathy Bleacher with the 2nd motion approved the minutes with no edits.

Treasurer's Report:

- Erin Battista, presented the Treasurer's Report. We are on track with our budget. Last month's account reconciliarion was provided as was a list of transactions made since our last meeting.
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Vice President Reports:

- Executive VP - Maryellen Charno - no report
- Communications VP - Cami Pisklak - no report

Committee Activity Updates:

- Activities Committee - Committee Chair Kathy Bleacher reported:
 - The Dance was huge success with over 300 attendees. We had no problems reported. We made a profit and will be splitting some of them from the dance with Student Government once we have all expenses paid out.
 - Coming up next is the Senior Breakfast.
- Fundraising Committee - Friday Lunch - Cami Pisklak reported for Committee Chair Maria Gedney:
 - Friday Lunch is rolling along just fine and we are on target to meet our budgeted amounts. The Friday we were off due to weather impacted us but we are looking fine.
 - There are a few slots still open for volunteers. You can find a link to the sign-up genius on the website.
- Hospitality Committee - Committee Chair Debbie Riley Geist reported:
 - Been kind of quiet. Gearing up for the Jr. Ring Ceremony on Monday, March 26.
- Membership Committee - Committee Chair Tina Duffy reported:
 - We need to make sure we get the PTA membership forms to go out with the re-commit letters.
- Military Support Committee - Brad Bacci, Veteran's Breakfast Committee Chair and Jenn Pobanz, Turkey Drive Committee Chair reported
 - The money that was left over from the Turkey Drive donations will be given to the Mental Health Association of Delaware. They spearhead the Annual Veterans Mental Health Summit as well as Suicide Intervention Training programs and classes throughout the year.
- Prom Support Committee - Committee Chair Dawn Riley reported:
 - We have reached out to Prom Committee (Mrs. Enderica) to let her know that we are here with financial support and can put together parent volunteers to help decorate the venue the morning of the Prom.
 - Mrs. Enderica was in attendance and further reported that things are starting to come together. Prom will be held at Hartefeld again this year. We will begin selling tickets right before Spring Break - there will be 2 days of sales with priority given to seniors. We have between 300 and 320 seats for the dance. The cost of the tickets are projected at \$90-\$95 per ticket. Any remaining money after expenses are used to purchase gift cards that are given away at the END of the night as an enticement to stay until 11pm.
- Reflections Committee - Tatiana Rice reported for Committee Chair Fidelia Portillo:
 - We did not have any submissions for Reflections this year due not only to being tardy on the organization side but also because we had no cadets express an interest in submitting work.
- Staff Appreciation Committee - Committee Chair Debbie Brown reported:
 - The next event is the "Souper Bowl" luncheon. It will be held on Friday, February 23. This is one of our more popular lunches. We still have several slots that need to be filled with donations. Cami will re-send the sign-up or email blast.
 - Coming up: something for St. Patrick's Day, events for Teacher Appreciation Week in May, and an End-of-Year celebration or luncheon.

Other Reports:

- Jim Sidlowski, Student Government President reported.
 - The Dance was huge success! The Cadets loved it, the music was good and there were no complaints.
 - Student Government is working on our Charity Event - not exactly sure what it will be, but it will NOT be dodge-ball. No date yet but ideally it will take place right before or immediately after Spring Break.

- Senior Gift - considering an aquarium but are looking at the care and maintenance concerns and cost. May be able to use the cadets to help maintain it. NHS may help with the financing. It will be a "Living Legacy" from this class.

Old Business:

- Turkey Drive Money: please see report under Military Support Committee.
- Academic Awards Night: Tatiana Rice, President followed up with Ms. Aunet regarding our financial contribution to this effort. PTA has typically paid for the neck ribbons, we are considering paying for the attendance certificates which would put our cost at around \$700.

New Business:

- Ping Pong Club - a very convincing presentation was given by cadets requesting start-up funds for the formation of a Ping Pong Club. The club would meet two days each week after school for about an hour. Space is limited but there has already been a lot of interest. In order to make tournament brackets convenient the number of cadets participating will be held to 16. They have a staff member willing to supervise (Mr. P) and have discussed their ideas with Mr. L (as he ran a club at Skyline Middle School and has some experience). The cadets are asking for \$500 in funding to cover the cost of two tables, table covers, ping pong balls, and paddles. Discussion ensued with PTA members congratulating them for their initiative. A motion was made to fund this endeavor at \$500 coming out of the PTA's Miscellaneous Expenses. Maryellen Charno with a 1st and Erin Battista with a 2nd to the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.
- Time to start thinking about Elections! An Elections Committee will be formed in March. We have known openings for a Communications VP and a Secretary. Information about elections and openings will be posted in the Commandant's Corner.

Announcements/Reminders:

- Dawn Riley presented information on the Lifelines Suicide Prevention Program (presented by the Mental Health Association of Delaware) to be held at Dickinson High School on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30pm in the school's cafeteria (1801 Milltown Road, Wilmington). Information on suicide issues in Delaware along with basic myths, facts, and signs of suicide risk will be presented. The program is designed for PARENTS ONLY - but feel free to bring a neighbor or a friend.
- **Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15th, at 6:30 in the Mess Hall.**

Tatiana Rice closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cami Pisklak, Communications VP for the
Delaware Military Academy PTA Secretary