



Families of Denison Montessori

Families of Denison Montessori (FDM) November 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Date, Time, and Location: November 14, 2017, 4:30pm, Denison Library

Meeting called to order by: Cristina Gonzales @ 4:36pm

Attendance: Kristen Kwasny, Wendy Reyes, Natalie Gates, Braden Tripp, Angela Robbins, Kacey Bennett, Laura Gilsdorf, Amanda Truesdale, Cristina Gonzales, Ana Petersen, Kris Green, Caroline Robbins, Raulton Reichel

Minutes: 10/10/17 and 10/17/17 meeting minutes were accepted and approved by the Executive Board.

Principal's Report: given by Cristina Gonzales. Katy Mattis wanted FDM to discuss retirement gift for paraprofessional Lorraine from room 103. Cristina noted it will be discussed later in the meeting.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer: given by Kris Green. Two handouts were distributed to all attendees. The first handout was an excel spreadsheet of all bank transactions from 8/1/17 thru 10/25/17. The second handout was an excel spreadsheet of the transactions from the Fall Festival that was held on 10/21/17. The net income for the Fall Festival came to \$1,175.79. The income raised from the Sugar Skull table, which was approximately \$150.00, is always given back to the Dragon's Blood Poetry Publication as this a table run by them to raise money for this item. Another distribution of Fall Festival Funds goes to the 6th Graders, as this event is to be run by them, usually at 50% of the Fall Festival proceeds. This year the Executive Board voted to distribute \$200.00 towards Dragon's Blood and \$500.00 towards the 6th Graders. This leaves FDM with a profit from Fall Festival of \$475.79.

Co-Chair [s]: given by Cristina Gonzales. *A thank-you flyer will be created and go out in Friday Folders in December to advise/Thank the community for all their help/support. The following events will be noted on the flyer: Fall Festival, Believe, Harvest Table, Back to School, Book Fair, Garlic Knot, For Small Hands, Winter Appreciation, King Soopers Cards.

*The King Soopers cards sold out at the Fall Festival and therefore there FDM has none to sell at the Thanksgiving Feast on 11/15/17. Kacey Bennett will call her contact at King Soopers and see if they can get us cards on such short notice. We are wanting to purchase 40 cards with \$5 balances totaling \$200.00. It was brought up that we should also have King Soopers cards the upcoming events: 11/30/17, 12/7/17 Concerts and 12/13/17 Talent Show.

*Fall Festival Committee discussion on how members felt the festival went this year. It was stated that it went smoothly, should add more events, make advertising clearer on who runs



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events and who it benefits, adding time limits to events next year, and there were complaints that there were no prizes. Suggestion for the prizes was to have a raffle. When games/ events are played that those involved receive a raffle ticket and have a chance to win iPad, Jump Street entry, etc.

* Believe Fundraiser is currently happening through paper and online. All submissions must be turned in by 11/27/17. A representative from Believe came to Denison's Staff meeting on 11/9/17 to get teachers hyped up for the fundraiser. A link to a YouTube video was shared with teachers to show in their classrooms about the fundraiser. The following was offered to Denison as incentives by the representative: 1) K-3 & 3-6, top selling classroom will win a pizza party. 2) If the school's total sales are \$10,000, the top sellers will get a Limo Bus ride to a luncheon celebrating and thanking them. 3) If 50% of a classroom sell 1 item, that classroom will receive \$50 to spend with Believe. 60% = \$60, 70% = \$70. Can be combined with another classroom to be \$100. 4) If we as a school get 50% the top selling classroom teacher will receive \$300. 5) On the fun little animal keychains, with parent permission, families can go ahead and win additional prizes. Some parents at the meeting noted that Fundraiser was not in their Friday Folder and Co-Chairs will check with all teachers to see status of delivery to students. Ana Petersen had a conversation with a concerned Grandparent about all the fundraisers happening at Denison during the holidays and how it was making kids feel sad. There seemed to be too much pressure to be involved in all the fundraisers. Attendees of the meeting had a discussion on how fundraisers can cause social exclusion, poverty shaming, and tried to come up with some ideas on how to make fundraising not seem so forceful on our community. It was recommended maybe not having fundraisers that have prizes, or not showing the Believe YouTube video. Further discussion will be made in the area at the next General Meeting. Natalie Gates stated that the macroaggressions of growing up in poverty are devastating, and FDM's fundraisers should not contribute to that. She feels there are many ways to fundraise that would not put social pressure onto children.

* Winter Staff Appreciation Committee. The dates for Staff Appreciation will be 12/18-12/20/17. The days will be scheduled as follows:

12/18: Massages for Staff. Currently there are 24 slots that will be first come first serve sign up basis. Kacey Bennett stated she had some contacts and would look into getting some more people to come in to do massages so that all staff might have an opportunity to get a massage as there are about 60 staff members at Denison. FDM usually pays \$75-\$100/person.

12/19: Lunch. FDM will provide soups in crockpots, salads, bread, etc.

12/20: Cookie Swap. Denison families will bring in their favorite cookies so that staff can take an assortment home over the break.

* Book Fair Committee. We are on the second day of the book fair and so far, it is running smoothly. Our first day's gross sales were over \$1,000.00.

* Spring Auction and Sandoval Meeting will be discussed at the next General Meeting on 12/12/17.



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Co-Chair (s): given by Amanda Truesdale. *The ECE Paraprofessional Lorraine from room 103 has left her position and it was voted by the FDM Executive Board to purchase a King Soopers Card in the amount of \$100 to give to her. *Denison's Thanksgiving Feast will be happening on 11/15/17 and volunteers are needed to help with Setup at 10:30am and Take Down at 1:45pm. If anyone is available to do so, please see Amanda Truesdale or Alice in the front office.

Vice-Chair: given by Ana Petersen. *After talking with Michael in the Library, Ana would like to look into a Library Supply Drive where the community can raise funds for the school's library. Cristina Gonzales noted that the school should be funding the library through their budget and not FDM.

Recording Secretary: given by Kristen Kwasny. *FDM's PTO Plus membership offers a Back2School free samples program for the 2018 school year. This has been done in years past with no luck on the products received, but it was voted to try again this year. *Red Apple Recycling has a donation box located by the schools parking lot. Because we have this donation box on our premises we are able to apply for a Grant through Red Apple. Kristen suggested FDM applies for the Grant and if the Executive Board approved to do so, that she would need to know what the funding would be used for. Some Board Members wanted to see the Box removed and not apply for the Grant as it would only be a few hundred dollars, but others felt it was an easy way to bring in funding for our school without requesting it from our community. It was voted to apply for the grant. *Kristen asked if there was a way to invite those who like Denison's Facebook page to events that were posted on the page instead of everyone having to individually invite their Facebook friends. It was concluded that this was just how Facebook operated and suggested to all to work on inviting their Facebook friends to Denison events posted on the school page. *Kristen suggested and offered to organize the FDM storage closets located in the basement of the school. She suggested having bins by events that FDM holds every year with the common items used at the events so that inventory could be kept. This would be a way to cut costs on last minute purchases for events and having duplicate purchases made. It was stated that the cabinets are organized and not by events and they would not like them by events. It was also stated that inventory would be a good idea. *Kristen asked if it was possible to work on purchasing a cork board to replace the dry erase Parent Engagement Board in the entrance of the school. She thought it would be easier to hang information and to decorate the board. She recommended that maybe FDM, PAC, and Box Tops contribute to this as all organizations post information on this board. Cristina Gonzales noted that Admin not too long ago purchased the dry erase board and may not want to replace. *Kristen delivered to Cristina Gonzales copies of four emails from the FDM email account that had never been opened/replied to so that she knew of status of email account. Kristen recently received access to account so that she could send meeting reminders. These were from the 5/5/16 through 1/3/17. The email on 1/3/17 was replied to by Kristen Kwasny through on 10/15/17. *Kristen delivered copies of 8 emails to Kris Green received from PayPal in regard to status of FDM's account. *Kristen has been



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approached by parents of the Denison community asking similar questions as “What percentage of profits for fundraising go to Denison?”, and she asked this of the Board. This became an intense conversation and as the one who asked the question and who takes notes, I lacked on the note taking here. Overall it was noted that people would like to have the financial records of FDM be posted on the website or someplace public as it’s a non-profit organization. The amount of funds that are given to Denison each year depends on the balance in the FDM bank account. Those funds though once given to the school are put into the teacher’s budget accounts. Board Members suggested to attendees of the meeting to ask their teachers what funds are used for. Natalie Gates mentioned that people donate more when they know where the money is going and suggested to make this information more accessible.

PAC Liaison: given by Caroline Robbins. *It was suggested to organize meal donation from families for families in need at Denison by maybe having a can food drive. *The Wellness Team at Denison is in the works of being re-created. *A Pennies for Patients Drive has been setup by Caroline Robbins and is set to run from January 26 through February 14 and is being run through the school and not FDM. She brought this up to see if there was conflict with any events that FDM might be hosting, and if so, Caroline would be able to cancel the Penny event. No events seemed to be in conflict. *Promoting business in our community was discussed by having a business directory, promoting at events.

Fundraising Chair: given by Angela Robbins. *Angela wants to start looking into a restaurant fundraiser for the month of January. There are several options and it was asked of the attendees which options they would prefer. It was decided that it was best to first contact the list and see which establishments are able to host in January and then go from there. *Small Hands Credit Promotion is still occurring and orders can be made up through 12/31/17 to still have Denison credited. *Angela suggested that she’d like to see fewer fundraisers at school, but have high impact ones. She’d also like fundraisers to be more Montessori based so they align with our school. *There was lively discussion about the purpose of FDM, transparency, and economic diversity.

Communications Secretary: given by Cristina Gonzales. *FDM’s website payment was past due as new bank cards had been issued to new officer’s but not updated with WIX. WIX has now been updated with new bank card information and paid. It was looked into having funds come directly from FDM’s checking account, but it was not an option available through WIX.

Members Reports

Given by Laura Gilsdorf. A fundraiser is in the process of being setup at Craft Fox (38th & I-25) as an Adult Night. This will be a donation based admission event with the thought of a suggested amount of \$5. The goal is that NO ONE is to be turned away. The event can hold 75-100 people and admission will include food and drinks. There are currently two possible dates for the event: April 14 or 21. There will be no child care offered. Would like to have



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raffles, photo booth, silent auction, and door prizes. Laura has already reached out and has many items setup for the event, but would like help in getting more door prizes and advertising help. *Laura is also a local realtor and will be placing a flyer in an upcoming Friday Folder about a referral program she's offering to help raise money for the school. She will check to see if best to have money go directly to school or to FDM.

Next Meeting Agenda: Spring Auction(CG), Sandoval Meeting(CG), RAFT(KK), Book Fair Extras(KK), Website(AR), Fundraising (AR)

Next Meeting is: December 12, 2017 @4:15-5pm in the Denison Library

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:05pm

Minutes compiled by: Kristen Kwasny – Recording Secretary

Attachments:

(available upon request)

* Bank Transactions 8/1/17 through 10/25/17

* Fall Festival Transactions/Profit