

PTO Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2020

Called to order 7:05 via zoom call.

Principals Report – Heather Halibu

Recent activity and updates:

- Dicken has 321 students and 19 of those are virtual. 94-97% of enrolled students are logging in each day.
- Schoology launch on Monday, September 21, 2020. We expect some bumps so please help to encourage anxious parents to give it a couple weeks to adjust. If you cannot login w/badge you should be able to use the same zoom link you did the past couple of weeks.
- Specials teachers will still use classroom teacher's links next week and until further notice.
- Staff relaunching an Equity Team - very excited about this work.
- Virtual Principal's Coffees every 6-8 weeks, beginning in October.
- Virtual Curriculum Night - TBD in October, PTO presentation? (this part I emailed)
- Cut off for A2 Virtual enrollment is Sept. 25 for families considering switching. Heather is happy to put families in touch w/the principal, Robin Kocher, if they want additional information.
- Hearing feedback especially from lower elementary parents that they are surprised already at the amount of screen time. We want to be flexible and give families permission to take breaks or time off if it is just becoming too much.
- Supply distribution next week -- perfectly fine for families with 6th graders to return materials to Dicken, or if no children any longer at Dicken and picking up at Slauson they can return materials to Slauson - whatever is most convenient. If you are still enjoying library books from the spring, feel free to keep them. Student supply pick up, for everyone – A2 Virtual, Classroom Connect and StudentLink. The email that was sent out has details on what was included (ex. EverydayMath workbook, school supplies, white board with dry erase markers, ruler, dice for math games). Bring items to return (ex. library books, instruments) if you want to return them. Or more information visit <https://www.a2schools.org/Page/16495>.

New Business & Reports: Jen Miller

- Praise for Dicken – Shared stories of our kids referencing habits and helping others with reference to what they have learned at Dicken!

Report- Outs:

Treasurer – Agustina Fragner

- Decision: 2020-2021 budget approved.
- Jessica Posey to encourage teachers and staff to cash their supply checks.
- Our bank is going through a merger and Agustina is working to confirm access and smooth transition.

Teacher Liaison – Jessica Posey

- Jessica Posey consulted staff and provided an update on how we can support staff with changes due to online learning: a) magnetic filter to add to laptops to block out blue light (\$30) or glasses or b) second monitor to view the class and material being presented (approximately \$70-100). Heather Halibu will ask district leadership. PTO members looking into available monitors to fill the need from businesses. Jessica will poll the staff to confirm that number of monitors needed.
- Another idea to support would be presentations for closing circle at the end of the day, runs from 2:58-3:13pm. Can we do something fun (ex. play a game, drawing activity)? Is this some thing that room parents can do? Ideas: could parents join the breakout rooms as guest reader or physical activity session?
- Staff do not have the same technology as students. They have Macbooks vs. Chromebooks and iPads to allow for more memory and storage. This is a limitation to the staff's ability to provide instructions on how to access apps, etc.

Staff Liaison - Adrienne Licata, no update.

Secretary – Kim Walsh

- Decision: March meeting minutes posted to public site. August meeting meetings approved and subsequently sent to Stephanie Harris to post on 9.17.

Fundraising – Anna Lavery

- Community Nights Out: Update provided on Hungry Howie's and Chipotle
- Decision: Hold on a Fall Dicken Distance activity right now because parents and teachers are focused on onboarding to virtual learning and we do not want to add more to their plates at this time.
- In October, we will share in the blast the route for the 5K Dicken Run so that families can do it on their own.
- Planning for either an online auction or outdoors event in May.

Room- Parent Coordinator – Lauren Kronberg

- Room parents still needed – posted request on Dicken Parent Facebook page and Lauren will provide an update on what they will be doing this year and which classes still need room parents later this week.
- She will reach out to teachers to inform them who their room parents are and to have them directly appeal to parents/kids to ask someone to volunteer.
- Discussed ideas on what room parents will do in virtual environment: maintain class lists, share wish lists for their teacher, coordinate with parents to support close out meetings. Ideas for surveys to parents in each class were shared.
- Facebook page for Room Parents will be updated once we get all of the Room Parents identified.
- Considering sending a survey to Teachers to help Room Parents have information on their favorite things and this will be distributed to the room parents for their teacher.

Enrichment - Dana McPherran

- Scanning for community events to share with our families (ex, Arc event on 9.19). These opportunities will be shared in the blast.

Communications – Jessica Giardini

- Submit for e-blast by noon on Fridays

Hospitality - Barb Authier and Alex Harman

PTOC – Rebecca Ankeney

- September 21, 2020 open meeting. Open to all and posted on Dicken Family Facebook page. It will be added to the blast this week.

PTO Meetings will be on second Thursday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.