

Delaware Military Academy PTA Minutes

March 15, 2018

Attendees: See sign in sheet.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks:

- Tatiana Rice, President, brought the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.
- Tatiana Rice the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment silence
- Tatiana Rice nominated Debbie Brown, as a candidate to fill the position of Secretary through the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Cami Pisklak with the 1st motion and Maryellen Charno with the 2nd motion approved the nomination. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Anthony Pullella, Commandant's Report

- The focus has been on Annual Inspection, which took place today. Colonel Henigan, the lead inspector, was "truly blown away" seeing a visible difference for the good in our cadets from 3-4 years ago. Our cadets always so well at inspection, even those who may struggle at times. In addition to inspection, Colonel Henigan also toured the campus. We are anticipating a "distinguished" rating for inspection again this year. It is disappointing that Pass and Review has been moved indoors tomorrow but it will be too cold to be outside.
- The Safety Survey sent to parents has been a big deal at DMA for letting the cadets know that safety is first and foremost. 207 parents took the survey, compared to the 26 that took the UD survey, which shows that safety is a more important issue to our families. 92.6% would support an air-marshar program at DMA and 90% said they feel that their kids are safe at school. Any good comments, families overall appreciative of our staff. Added security measures (gates, etc.) were suggested, open campus is a concern. The more we can keep cadets in house the better, we've gotten better at keeping kids in wings. Locked doors verses cadets at the doors is an improvement to security. The new camera systems have also helped. Mr. Pullella will probably draft a letter to the Governor to let him know how our families feel about things and get our thoughts on record. Families would like more safety drills, will be discussed at staff meeting next Thursday.
- The new stadium - still a go for breaking ground late April/May, hope to be done by late August. The stadium will mean additional revenue for the school. The Band would like to run the concussion stand for both fall and spring. Any cost savings to come with new stadium (fewer bus expenses at \$600/bus, etc.) meaning more money in DMA's pockets.
- March 14th marked a month since the Florida shooting. We read the names of the 17 victims and had a moment of silence. At lunch, we asked the cadets to sit with someone new and to do some random acts of kindness. Mr. Pullella thinks "acts of kindness" should be a trend we strive for to address this horrible issue.
- Vaping is still an issue (our biggest discipline issue right now) but only 10 kids breaking the rule/doing it on school. But we are cracking down about it, bringing kids in for discussions and suspensions if necessary.
- Enrollment - 132 acceptances, ends tomorrow then will go to the wait list (will probably go to about 20 on the wait list).

Secretary:

- Cami Pisklak, Communications VP, provided the February 2018 meeting minutes. Cami Pisklak with the 1st motion and Maryellen Charno with the 2nd motion approved the minutes with no edits.

Treasurer's Report:

- Erin Battista, presented the Treasurer's Report. Not much has changed. She has paid everything that has come in. Zingo's receipts are rolling in. Seasons Pizza is straightened out. If possible, asked that committee chairs ask for a check request rather than cash reconciliation when requesting money.

Vice President Reports:

- Communications VP - Cami Pisklak - Updated website software. Looks different but same content.
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- **Executive VP** - Maryellen Charno - Heard from Tina Duffy (Membership Chair), received permission from Admin at last meeting to include PTA membership form in re-enrollment and new cadet packets. Mr. Pullella will cut a check to the PTA for any PTA dues included with enrollment fees.

Committee Activity Updates:

- Activities Committee - Committee Chair Kathy Bleacher reported:
 - Senior Breakfast is next event.
- Fundraising Committee - Friday Lunch - Cami Pisklak reported for Committee Chair Maria Gedney:
 - Friday Lunch is great, everything on target.
 - Mr. Pullella reported that the cadets want Chick-fil-A back. \$512 net profit needs to be made with every Friday lunch and we cannot do that with Chick-fil-A.
 - Maria Gedney will probably not be back next year as Committee Chair so the PTA is looking to fill her position.
- Hospitality Committee - Committee Chair Debbie Riley Geist reported:
 - Jr. Ring Ceremony on Monday, March 26. Maryellen Charno volunteered to be here to cut/plate cake during the ceremony.
 - National Honor Society, April 17 - easy, will handle herself.
 - Week after is the ROTC Awards. Last year the kids came right from sports and were starving so planning to provide more substantial food this year.
 - New Cadet Orientation is May 1. Need 4 volunteers but Debbie Riley Geist can easily handle set-up. Will let Cami Pisklak know if she needs a SignUpGenius but thinks she should be able to get 4 volunteers on her own.
 - Mr. Pullella added that for the Ring Ceremony the Lavelle's have requested we include Chris' name in the ceremony and asked if they can have private room and bring in refreshments. Mr. Pullella does not want them to have to bring in their own food, so Debbie offered to bring a small sheet cake for them.
- Membership Committee - Tatiana Rice reported for Committee Chair Tina Duffy:
 - Tina Duffy has done a great job but cannot hold the Committee Chair position next year so we need a replacement. Will discuss membership table and new cadet orientation at next meeting. Mr. Pullella suggested Scott Kipp or his wife (parents of freshman cadet) as possible replacements for Tina Duffy.
- Military Support Committee - Brad Bacci, Veteran's Breakfast Committee Chair and Jenn Pobanz, Turkey Drive Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Prom Support Committee - Committee Chair Dawn Riley reported:
 - Need to request that parents help with set up for prom. In mid-April, Cami Pisklak will create a SignUpGenius and do an email blast once Dawn Riley has provided her with details and information.
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- Reflections Committee - Tatiana Rice reported for Committee Chair Fidelia Portillo:
 - No report.
- Staff Appreciation Committee - Committee Chair Debbie Brown reported:
 - Giving out "we're so lucky to have you as teachers" treat bags tomorrow for St. Patrick's Day.
 - Next events will take place Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11. Plan to have a pizza lunch, breakfast and Cinco de Mayo lunch. Jimmy Sidlowksi asked if the seniors could participate as well, will get back to him with some ideas.

Other Reports:

- Jim Sidlowski, Student Government President reported.

- Positive talk yesterday (3/14), all agreed that talk/seminar is more positive than a walkout in response to the Florida shooting. Plan to hold another event on 4/20 (Earth Day).
- The charity event this year will be a spike ball tournament. Asked Nick Graham and Maddie Higman to write the rules, already talked with Mr. Grant about helping. The charities will be Suicide Prevention (Mr. Grant) and Neighbors of Nicaragua. The date is Saturday, April 14, 6:30-9:30pm in the mess hall drill deck or the Dome (discussing with Mr. Ryan, Mr. Pullella said it would be ok). 36+ teas, 2 per team. \$10-15 entry fee because charity event. Referees from Student Government, asking if teachers want to help as well. Tatiana asked how PTA can help, concessions? Jimmy also asking Sports Boosters if they would like to do concessions.
- Senior Gift - Fish Tank! Ms. Averell helping. Working with William Greenbank Aquariums where Ms. Averell gets her fish so can probably get a discount if we include their name on the tank (Tatiana Rice knows the owner, as well). NHS helping with a \$800 donation, spoke with Mrs. Bradley about this. Selling senior shirts (\$1500) and Senior Assassin Game (\$200). Need to spend the money before finals, everyone seems to like the fish tank idea, just need to figure out the location and care.

Old Business:

- Cami Pisklak said we need to form a nominating committee. Stacey Broomell agreed to be the Nominating Committee Chair. Mr. Pullella will put something in the Commandant's Corner, Cami Pisklak will send out email blast.

New Business:

- No new business to report.

Tatiana Rice closed the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Brown
Delaware Military Academy PTA Secretary