

DELAWARE MILITARY ACADEMY PTA MINUTES

November 29, 2018

For a list of meeting attendees, see sign-in sheet on file with PTA secretary

Call-to-Order and Opening Remarks

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Tatiana Rice, PTA president, brought the meeting to order at 6:37 PM. The meeting, originally scheduled for originally scheduled for November 15th, was postponed due to inclement weather.

Commandant Pullella's Report

To date, 178 applications for DMA's Class of 2023 have been received. There has been confusion about the application, specifically about the second question. Administration is addressing that confusion. All candidates who want an admissions interview will get one.

Construction on the stadium will begin on April 1, 2019. Targeted completion is still August 2019. There will be no more delays.

The DMA Board voted to buy St. Matthew's. The 65,000 square feet of space includes a gym, church, rectory and school. Close to 85% of the space will be "gifted" to DMA. St. Matthew's parishioners will be able to use the church lease-free. DMA has plans to establish a middle school however all of this is contingent upon approval from Red Clay.

Delaware Military Academy recently earned an "Exceeds Expectations" rating from the Delaware Department of Education.

DMA is currently cultivating a \$350,000 donation from the Ellice and Rosa McDonald Foundation. This generous donation would cover the balance of the stadium.

Thank you to everyone for another great Veteran's Day breakfast.

65% of cadets have achieved academic honors. Eight students met with the Academic Review Board.

While block scheduling is found to be beneficial for most students, Mr. Pullella understands concerns about student athletes missing the same classes when leaving early for games. He will talk to administration about the possibility of implementing a rotating schedule.

Mr. Pullella will attend a Pearl Harbor ceremony down state with Delaware Military Academy co-founder, Charles Baldwin. DMA cadets will participate in Newport's annual Pearl Harbor ceremony.

Sports Boosters annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 8th. All are invited to attend.

Maryann Yarram, Delaware Military Academy parent

Ms. Yarram attended the PTA meeting to express her concerns about the increase of vaping and juuling among teens. She began the discussion with the question “how do we empower our kids to make the right decisions?”

Ms. Yarram provided copies of a power point presentation and other helpful handouts regarding vaping, e-cigarettes, and juuling. She will work along with administration to get the power point running in the mess hall.

A lively discussion ensued, and lots of opinions and ideas were shared. Mr. Pullella re-iterated that staff and administration will continue to educate and stress to cadets the importance of making good choices.

Special thanks to Ms. Yarram for bringing this issue to the PTA meeting and for her continued efforts in educating our cadets.

PTA Officer and Committee Reports

Tatiana Rice presented October’s meeting minutes for review. Motion was passed and minutes were approved.

Erin Battista, PTA treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s report. Copies of the budget and Reconciliation Summary were distributed and approved.

Cindy Ferry, PTA executive vice president, had no report.

Stacy Broomall, PTA vice president of communication, is familiarizing herself with the PTA website.

Activities Committee: Kathy Bleacher had no report.

Fundraising Committee: Amy Kalafut, committee co-chair, shared details of the Designer Bag Bingo event scheduled for March 23, 2019. The event will be held at DMA and we will need donations of snacks and drinks.

Friday lunches are going well, though pizza sales are fluctuating. Dom’s has been very responsive.

Hospitality: Anne Keunnen reported that we are set for Open House with plenty of volunteers and donations of snacks and drinks. Anne will chair the Veteran’s Breakfast next year, so she is looking for someone to take on the hospitality committee.

Membership: Michele Kipp reported that PTA membership is at 225. You can print your membership card from the PTA Membership Hub.

Military Support: co-chair Jenn Probanz shared details of the upcoming Turkey Drive and Veteran's Day Breakfast.

A Sign-Up Genius will be sent out for Turkey Drive. Monetary donations can be pledged through Cheddar Up.

November 7th is the cadet dress down fundraiser. Donation is \$5.00. Looking for parent volunteers to sell tickets at lunches on November 5th and 6th and on the morning of November 7th. Erin Battista will be there all three days.

Bacchetti Brothers will be catering the Veteran's Breakfast. The contract has been signed. Dominic Papa has generously donated \$3000 to fund the event.

After the PTA meeting on November 15th, we will sort and pack meals.

Reflections: Marylee Diciara has met with Christina Welch to discuss ways to increase participation in the Reflections contest. This year's theme is "Heroes Around Me" and the deadline is December 31st. Amy Kalafut will check to see if we can use the Red Clay print shop to print promotional posters and flyers.

Staff Appreciation is in need of a chairperson.

New Business

Kelsi Lussier, student body president, discussed the success of Spirit Week and Homecoming.

Tatiana Rice let everyone know that the state PTA has open positions and asked those interested to check out the state PTA website.

PTA meeting minutes will be emailed to attendees.

Next month's PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen Charno

