



## PTA All Parent Meeting

May 2, 2023, 7 p.m.

Downtown School Library + Online

**Attendees: 10 people online; 26 people in-person**

- I. President Welcome & Introductions – Cara Edmundson, PTA President
  - a. PTA board and staff in attendance introduced themselves.
- II. Principal Presentation
  - a. School Curriculum update – Dana Allen, Interim Principal
    - i. Shared a thank you through KudosBoard with the families for their support throughout the year and at the recent PTA Fundraising Auction  
<https://dtsfalcon.kudoboard.com/boards/2bXWD3Lm#view>
  - b. A staff committee shared a presentation about the curriculum.
    - i. Shared ways to help and volunteer. Emphasized ways to help in and out of the classroom.
    - ii. Explained how “Illustrative Math” curriculum works, including what it is, and what it is not. This is a district-wide curriculum that will translate to middle school.
    - iii. Explained Literacy learning strategies within the Common Core standards set by the State of Iowa.
    - iv. Discussed Intervention, which provides students with support to acquire skills. This can happen with one student, or with a whole classroom. Next year DTS will use the push-in model, where all interventions happen in the classroom. If you want materials for home, please ask your classroom teacher.
    - v. Shared Leadership and Social Skill Counseling curriculum, including Superflex.
    - vi. In the past, DTS has hosted education/information sessions for families. [TAKE THIS EDUCATION NEEDS SURVEY](#) to share your thoughts about programming for the 2023-2024 school year.
    - vii. The current DMPS curriculum has transitioned to project-based learning. DTS has always used a project-based curriculum, but now we also use the same curriculum as the rest of the district.
  - c. Staffing/grade level plan 2023-2024 year
    - i. As a leadership team, discussions took place about how best to teach in classrooms.
    - ii. There will not be multi-age classrooms next year. Feel free to reach out to Dana with questions and for more information.
    - iii. Still plan to do activities across grade-levels. This could include specials and mentoring.
    - iv. Staff Leadership team is considering still doing looping, which includes teaching one grade-level at a time, but teaching students for two-years in a row.
    - v. Staff emphasized that what makes DTS special is parent involvement and community atmosphere.
  - d. About DTS Video

- i. Principal Allen is working with Central Campus to create a video/commercial about the Downtown School, that can be used to talk about and explain DTS.
      - 1. Reach out to Dana Allen, Tracey Donovan or Kelly Craiger if you'd like to participate as a parent voice/parent perspective.
      - 2. This could just be a voiceover, not necessarily an on-camera testimony.
- e. Summer Programming
  - i. Summer Reading Program this summer. It will include book clubs and book projects. This time will also include Math and Reading Intervention for students who are most at risk.
  - ii. [Registration is OPEN NOW, online](#). Programming is Wednesdays and Thursdays in July; 9-11 a.m. Includes a morning snack. No transportation and no lunch. It will take place at DTS Building.
  - iii. Not required to attend all sessions, so sign-up even if your student cannot attend every day.
  - iv. Non-staff/parents/community members can apply for positions through DMPS.
  - v. Currently no programming for incoming kindergarteners; funding stipulates this has to be for currently enrolled students.
  - vi. Families getting communications about interventions will get those by the end of this week from their classroom teacher.

### III. President Report

- a. Big Auction Thank You – parents, teachers, staff, families.
  - i. Exceeded our goal, but a chunk of that goes to credit card fees.
  - ii. The money supports the school for the next two years.
- b. After School Club Sessions 4 and 2023-24 School Year
  - i. Last session for school year is in progress.
  - ii. A survey about after school programming and after school child care went out. We got some responses.
  - iii. PTA will offer one day/week programming next year, much like this year. We're working with district to see what other choices might be available in the future.
- c. Middle School Transition
  - i. Merrill, Callanan and others are hosting Transition nights.
  - ii. Reach out to DTS if you want assistance connecting to the school your student will attend in the fall.
- d. Welcome and Elect incoming and remaining PTA Board Members
  - i. Terms are one-year. And bylaws say a person can serve two consecutive terms in that role.
  - ii. Up for election are:
    - 1. President – Cara Edmondson
    - 2. VP – Aaron McCann
    - 3. Co-Treasurers – Jennifer Burton and Kelsey Green
    - 4. Co-Secretary – Bethany Crile
    - 5. Co-PVC Chairs – Amy Licht
    - 6. Co-Special Events – Sarah Shaffer and Emily Argo
  - iii. Theresa Wilson made the motion to nominate the slate. Amy Licht seconded. Motion approved. The term will begin at the first Board meeting following their election, June 6.

- e. Stay tuned for other PTA volunteer positions in addition to classroom PVCs for the 2023-24 school year.
- IV. Special Events
- a. Auction – Thank you! Huge success!
  - b. Skate Night –Tuesday, May 23, which is over the break, at Skate South.
    - i. Costs \$5/person+tax for skate rental.
    - ii. Golden Skate competition!
  - c. End of Year Picnic – June 15 at Greenwood Park.
    - i. Plan to pack a picnic. Enjoy the playground. Starts at 5 p.m.
- V. Treasurer Report
- a. Auction Report was provided, including silent/live auction revenue and sponsorship/donation revenue.
  - b. Treasurer Report was provided.
  - c. Use of Adopt-A-Teacher Funds
    - i. Teachers are using the money. Thank you for contributing!
    - ii. PTA did supplement these funds this year, so each classroom teacher had \$200 to spend this year. Funds are given by families over the end of year holidays. Teachers need to use the funds before the end of June each year.
    - iii. The funds are given to the PTA by families. Families can leave a message for their classroom teachers, and the PTA shares those notes with teachers.
  - d. After School Programming Funds
    - i. This is money that supports the After School Program only.
- VI. PVC Chairs
- a. Gave overview of PVC Program
  - b. Teacher Appreciation Week – This is next week, May 8-12. Look from an email from your PVC and on the DTS Families Facebook page.
    - i. Bagels-Breakfast
    - ii. Lunch provided
    - iii. Students bring a flower for their teacher, and together this becomes a bouquet
    - iv. Lunch provided
    - v. Card or special drawing/note for your teacher. PTA will also give a special gift to all teachers.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting times and dates for the 2023-2024 School will be published by September 2023

**PTA Leadership Board 2022-2023 School Year**

President - Cara Edmondson

Vice President - Aaron McCann

Secretary - Bethany Crile

Treasurers - Theresa Wilson

Special Events Chairs - Emily Argo & Sarah Shaffer

Parent Volunteer Coordinator (PVC) Chairs - Amy Licht