

Dingeman Family Faculty Connection Meeting
April 9, 2024 - Via Zoom

I. Call to Order

Call to order by FFC President, Cathryn McFearin, at 6:34 p.m. on April 9, 2024.

Cathryn welcomes everyone to our April FFC meeting. The March meeting minutes were sent out to the board for review. Cathryn calls for any requests for changes/corrections. No changes requested. Cathryn requests a motion to pass the March meeting minutes.

II. Approval of March meeting's minutes

*Motion to approve the 3/12/24 meeting minutes – Sandra Atkinson

Second – Blaine Sheppard

Motion to approve 3/12/24 meeting minutes passed unanimously; none opposed

III. Board Reports

1. President - Cathryn McFearin: Tiger Trot

Cathryn starts by announcing that we have kicked off our Tiger Trot fundraiser - envelopes went home and another email went out with the goals we have set. Although we have done the pledge drive and staff raffle, we are asking everyone to make an effort and go out to the community and ask for support/donations. We have fun things planned as rewards for the kids if we reach certain goals. Feel free to send any questions her way. It is always a fun event. Christina secured a coffee truck, which will donate a portion of their sales to us.

2. Vice President - Christina Liu: Staff Raffle

Christina is happy to announce that the staff raffle far exceeded her expectations. We made just barely under \$5,000! She is so happy and so grateful

to our staff that participated. Every class was represented and we had non-classroom staff participate as well, which is always lovely. The feedback from families was that everyone was so excited and hoping to win. Many students put in tickets for current and past teachers and teachers they are hopeful to have in the future. All winners have been announced except for 1 that she is still trying to track down. Christina mentions that she has taken notes on what they can do differently next year and what worked well this year. She gives a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who helped sell tickets before and after school, and to Cathryn for her beautiful advertising signs for all of the experiences.

3. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir: Budget to date

Katarina is not here tonight. Dusty shares the financial report for March 2024 on the screen. Cathryn reviews the report and announces there was not a big change in March.

Checking Account Starting Balance as of March 1:	\$205,137.93
Checking Account Ending Balance as of March 29:	\$202,469.42
Savings Account Balance as of March 29:	\$30,568.52
Total:	\$235,706.45

Deposits in the amount of \$1,485.22 included corporate matches and 5th grade committee funds raised.

Expenditures in the amount of \$4,153.73 included grade level grants, classroom and staff reimbursements, Art Corps supplies, 5th grade committee party expense and Honor Choir accompanist.

Money raised from the staff raffle and yearbook sales will all go into the April financial report.

We will present the budget for the 2024-2025 school year in May at the next meeting.

4. Principal - Dusty Pedrotti

Mr. Pedrotti starts by pointing out that the staff raffle and art show were absolutely fabulous. He knows a lot of work went into getting volunteers to sell tickets and he really appreciates all of the teachers who wanted to donate and give back.

Mr. Pedrotti recognizes that Sandra really took the lead this year for the Art Corps show and he knows it is a lot of work and he is super appreciative. The event went so well and it was neat to have a recycling art project by Ms. Lee's class and games, etc. It is fun to see how things change each year and what works and what doesn't. As always, the families enjoy seeing all of the kids' art work.

He doesn't have a lot of school-wide updates, but has been looking at class placements and planning for next year. State testing will be coming up for 4th and 5th grades.

He also gives a shout out to the Corteses for the 3D printers – they are doing great. He met with Greg about the departing gift for 5th grade classes. They will be making a cool lamp and Greg taught him how to use the machine. After we do the lamps for 5th grade, there will be really cool things for the other grade levels. The printers have really amplified our makerspace.

Mr. Pedrotti ends by putting the message out about open house. It will be on Thursday, April 25. We like to do it before state testing because the teachers have to take all the charts and examples down. He looks forward to seeing all the parents there and at the Tiger Trot.

5. Staff - Mr. Joe Marsella, Ms. Boelzle, Ms. Becker

Ms. Boelzle shares that she thinks the staff raffle went really well and that it was a great idea. The teachers and students are excited to redeem the prizes, and she is personally excited to go bowling with her kids. She notes that having the teachers out there encouraging and helping sell tickets was really nice and had a fun, celebratory feel.

-Christina requests she extend our appreciation to all the teachers who came out to celebrate and dance, and help sell – it was so fun and it

felt like a party every morning. We hope to continue this fundraiser in the future and says thank you, thank you, thank you to all the teachers.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Spring Carnival – Claudine Ricanor Kollmeyer

Claudine announces the Spring Carnival will be May 17 from 3:00-6:30. Planning is underway and some communication regarding the need for volunteers has gone out. Many volunteers are always needed and she is happy to say that she has as few people she has already spoken to that will be working closely with her. Namely, she will be working with Christina to get the info to the room parents to share with their classes. Other communication will go out to teachers, encouraging and requesting parents to volunteer and lend a hand.

Claudine is excited to report that we will be following the same theme as last year after receiving a lot of positive feedback. We will be incorporating a few different elements, to be revealed later, as we are still working out the details. There will be booths, both small businesses/organizations and cultural booths, food trucks, games and activities.

-Lisa asks if there is a charge for the booth. Claudine confirms we usually offer a booth for \$50 but are looking to increase the price, which serves as a donation and goes back to the school.

-Sandra asks if there is a reason we picked 5/17, since that is the same day Jerabek is doing their fair. She will be helping out with the SR Pop Warner booth over there, but would love to optimize our event. Mr. Pedrotti confirms we chose our date first and have had it on the same date in the past. Claudine wonders if Pop Warner or other organizations could have representation at both schools. Sandra will look into it, but thinks it could be difficult to train enough volunteers in time to man both places, as they have to be well-versed in the registration process. Sandra and Claudine to stay in touch regarding possibility.

-Mr. Pedrotti asks if we are having student performances again? Claudine confirms we will, and that she is trying to spread the times out more. She will discuss more at a later time.

-Christina said that she got some feedback that it would be helpful to have an online document of which countries have cultural ambassadors. It might work well if people have an idea of which countries are being represented earlier so that they can coordinate their efforts or sign-up. Claudine confirms we can keep a list of which countries are being represented.

2. Art Corps - Art Show recap

Sandra is introduced as the “art show extraordinaire.” Sandra starts by saying that she doesn’t deserve any credit and that Lisa just told her what to do and how to do it. She was very appreciative of all the help and guidance she got - so many people showed up to help set up and showed up for the show and then tear down. It was great, it was fun, and people enjoyed it. She notes that it was great we got to throw in the staff raffle and have a little carnival outside the art show, and the scavenger hunt. She is looking forward to hearing more about the County Fair exhibition, because there are a lot of questions.

-Lisa confirms that an email will go out to all of the Art Corps volunteers regarding the County Fair submissions and she will send to Mr. Pedrotti to send to all the teachers. The Fair doesn’t accept individual submissions and we don’t want to put more work on the teachers, so we will be requesting help from the Art Corps teams in each classroom and from the room parents. It has to be submitted as a whole class, as a project, they will not accept individual submissions.

-Lisa expresses her emotions as this is her last year serving, and we all recognize how many years she has led and the energy and effort and coordination she has put into the Art Corps program. Christina shares how she was first introduced to Art Corps via Zoom and Lisa remembers how they somehow made the program keep working during the pandemic.

-Mr. Pedrotti, Lisa and Sandra will look into the fine details of the County Fair submissions and figure out how to do the paperwork for each classroom. If submitted, each student gets a ticket to the fair and each teacher gets 2 tickets to the fair. Sandra offers to do all labels if we can submit as a school-wide project.

3. STEAM - Noetic Math Update, 3D printer update

Karthika gives the update that the current equipment needs some attention – the probots require antennas, and she is hoping to acquire more hands to help troubleshoot the equipment, but hoping to get on campus before this week's class of 4/19, and also wondering if we should buy more of the same equipment to replace or fix, or just let it go because it is at the end of its life.

Karthika also reports that the next Noetic math test will be next week. They have started working on things for competitions and use for Math Olympiad and Noetic Math. She is hopeful that maybe we might want to come up with an agreement on how to do it next year.

-Discussion about CPR training, lesson plans, questions, coaching and physical equipment and training for the adults. Check with other STEAM volunteers, see where we want to head; invest in previously used tech or go in another direction. STEAM meeting to be held at a later time to discuss all needs and feedback.

Kelly Cortese speaks of the STEAM team and the 3D printer update. The challenges are finished for the year; they are all out; materials are all there. The link is dropped in chat:

19:09:44 From Kelly Cortese to Everyone:

STEAM Challenges:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oZQQ3GIZivxwg79OECyrU2bh0NYkXKs0GJ26rNipnAQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Getting Started with 3D Printers:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GpMq4li8628IJhR8HYqNbZUs_yWi48XZn6ieL90F4tM/edit?usp=sharing

Ms. Cortese will continue to work on a plan over the summer, and write programs which she has already incorporated:

When we did the spider web challenge, we had the 3d printer going and printed spiders, so they can see it in action. There are some kits, but if teachers don't want to take on additional challenge of more complex activities, then we have created slide shows to do other projects/challenges.

Kelly is excited to report that they have put together slide decks to be used with the 3D printers – it shows videos with questions; get kids excited about it and how it works. The slides with instructions are done, it shows what it is, how to change the filament; and Greg even took pictures to show how the 3D printer can and should be used and started. Mr. Pedrotti and Greg worked together on a plan to understand and work the printer, but also to implement the plan for the 5th grade lamp kit.

- Greg printed the shoe trophy for run club.
- Discussion about training for the kids vs. training for the adults.
- Discussion about the slide decks: There are 2 presentations – 1 for kids to teach about 3d printers; in general and then slide deck is operation of printers, so we will put it together for lamp kits; if printers become available then we can open up to other projects.

- Cat reminds the STEAM team that next month will be the budget meeting and requests that we know the expenses so that we can account for them, like license agreements, filament, software, etc.

4. Yearbook - presales online now through April 19

Cathryn gives the report for Anthony.

Presales are still going on, but the last day to order is 4/19 and then he will put the final order into the publisher. We lost money last year so we will not be ordering as many extra, so please order ahead and pass the word along to order now at dingeman.net. There are some classes that don't have any photos uploaded for their classroom collage, so please spread the word and get them submitted because Anthony still has work to do after receiving the photos. Christina adds that the deadline to submit photos for the classroom collage is 4/14.

5. EAR – Jessica Craig-Huynh

Jessica reports that she had a coffee chat on March 21 with a good turn-out of 9 people. They finalized the organization in the EAR space for a good finish and confirmed the celebration date/promotion of May 20 in the library. She is always looking for donations of gently used books, magazines, etc. The EAR program can always use Scholastic magazines and if any teachers have extra copies, you can always leave in the teacher lounge and she will pick up.

The volunteers and her effort will most likely wrap up reading with the students in the middle of May. She will be sending out an email to teachers to get the best time frame for the students to receive their certificate.

The feedback and discussion was that the EAR program starts with some basics, but any and all reading strategies are welcome to be shared.

In grade levels 1-5, the EAR program has been working with 67 students.

We will be thinking about training for next year and hopefully keeping volunteers that we have this year.

-Discussion between Christina and Mr. Joe about the wonderful volunteers who come in and read with the students.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

Christina asks a question about how long the STEAM items/lessons and Makerspace will be open. Mr. Pedrotti confirms that the space will be open for use until the last day of school. Kelly adds that there are plenty of supplies for the challenges; people can go in there and use them and is happy to give them a list of the challenges.

Sandra asks the question of what is our budget for Art Corps.

-Discussion about what amount is spent. Lisa addresses the fact that a lot of the cost is the copyrighted material we use. Sandra wants to know the cost vs. supplies and what we have already.

-It is noted that we are re-evaluating everything for next year, so we will meet in between this meeting and May, as the cost of everything goes up, we will be discussing and the budget will be presented at the next meeting.

Lisa announces that Mr. Saguil's and Mrs. Harris' classes will be performing Princess Whatsername in the MPR on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone can attend for free. Christina adds the date and time to the chat.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Attendants:

Christina Liu
Angie Couvrette
Cathryn McFearin
Joe Marsella
Jessica Craig-Huynh
Nesra Senol
Dusty Pedrotti
Sandra Atkinson
Amy Boelzle
Lisa Shadburn
Iphone
Kelly Cortese
Greg Cortese
Blaine Sheppard
Vijay Gurkhe
Karthika Ramesh
Cee Tee
Claudine Ricanor Kollmeyer
N. Martinez