

**Dingeman Family Faculty Connection Meeting
May 14, 2024 - Via Microsoft Teams Meeting**

I. Call to Order

Call to order by FFC President, Cathryn McFearin, at 6:31 p.m. on May 14, 2024.

Welcome everyone to our last meeting of the year. Angie prepared and sent out the meeting minutes.

No questions or changes noted/requested.

II. Approval of April's meeting minutes

***Motion to approve the 4/9/24 meeting minutes – Katarina Mansir**

Second – Christina Liu

Motion to approve 4/9/24 meeting minutes passed unanimously; none opposed.

III. Board Reports

1. President - Cathryn McFearin

We have a lot to cover tonight, so she passes on to Christina.

2. Vice President - Christina Liu: Staff Appreciation Recap

Christina starts by giving all the amazing room parents a huge shout out for such a successful staff appreciation week. There was so much love and time and effort put into coordinating and treating the teachers and staff for the week. She also thanks Eydie, Nesra, Sandra and Ivy for helping set up the refreshments everyday. We are thankful for all the wonderful staff and had a delicious lunch from North Park Produce on Thursday.

3. Treasurer - Katarina Mansir: Budget to Date; Preliminary 2024-2025 Budget

Katarina shares the financial overview for April 2024 and notes we had a bunch of deposits.

Checking Account Starting Balance as of April 1:	\$202,469.42
Checking Account Ending Balance as of April 30:	\$212,883.09
Savings Account Balance as of April 30:	\$30,569.05
Total:	\$233,038.47

We had deposits in the amount of \$32,549.68 which included Tiger Trot donations, yearbook sales, staff raffle and spirit gear sales.

Expenditures in the amount of \$24,241.33 included Spring Carnival expenses, classroom reimbursements and grade level grants.

Katarina then shares the proposed budget for 2024-2025, asks everyone to review and briefly goes over each line item.

6:40 p.m. - Mr. Joe proposes that perhaps we should eliminate the grade level grants for the upcoming year. He discussed it with Ms. Boelzle and Ms. Becker and they feel like it adds stress to the Board/Treasurer and teachers. They acknowledge that the FFC already gives a lot to the teachers.

Discussion about removing the line item and the benefits vs. downside. Mr. Pedrotti notes that the cost of buses is going up next year. Perhaps we can change it to a collective field trip expenses line item. Ms. Becker adds that it is often contentious among the teachers on trying to decide how to use the money. She suggests if we take it away for a year, we can narrow the scope down and figure out how to use the money equitably. She will propose to the 5th grade team to use the money for BizTown.

It is also noted that the amount was \$15K in previous years and this year we dropped it down to \$9K so that we can eventually cut-out or streamline.

Katarina suggests we put the proposed budget, as is, to a vote for now and then it can be discussed in August when we meet again and adjustments can be made.

***Motion to approve the 2024-2025 proposed budget – Christina Liu**

Second – Joe Marsella

Motion to approve the 2024 proposed budget passed unanimously; none opposed.

4. Auditor – Kim Kennelly: Audit from Last Year

6:46 p.m. - Kim Kennelly took over for Vanessa Samulis who moved. Vanessa had prepared the 2022-2023 audit through Quickbooks. She sorted them, and double checked 201 transactions to test and make sure they had supporting evidence. In addition, she reviewed all transactions over \$9K, which was 5% of all transactions. There were only a couple discrepancies, mostly due to a lack of signatures or receipts. Also looked at bank transactions. Everything was done in compliance with County standards. One recommendation is to update the payment request form and make sure it is uploaded as an editable PDF for ease.

It is noted the importance of the auditor in addition to our financial team of the Treasurer, Katarina and Deposit Secretary, Ivy. We have a lot of money that goes in and out of our bank and so it is really good to make sure we have another set of eyes on things to make sure no one is doing anything wrong and that we are doing everything properly.

5. Principal – Dusty Pedrotti: Appoint Staff Representatives for 2024-2025

6:51 p.m. – As always, Mr. Pedrotti starts with a thank you, and acknowledges that we get to do a lot of things at our school thanks to the efforts of the FFC.

Mr. Pedrotti is looking forward to meeting new families at a 30-minute information overview for UTK and new students next Wednesday. He is also pleased to announce that 114 students participated in the Noetic Math Competition, and there were awards and ribbons and the students were excited.

Mr. Pedrotti notes that state testing has begun. It is new for 3rd grade. Thankfully it was a super smooth first day. We are encouraging the students by giving them testing treats each day.

Mr. Pedrotti is also happy to report that we made our goal of \$15K raised from the Tiger Trot, so last Friday, we had a BMX assembly. It was quite exciting with 7 teachers laying on the ground for the biker to jump over.

With the help of the STEAM team, Mr. Pedrotti reports that the 3D printer is up and running and the 5th grade students were able to choose a style, see what the printer was able to do and get their vases printed.

Question from Kim – what is the enrollment looking like for next year?

Mr. Pedrotti said that things are looking pretty good and we won't have to make many staff adjustments, but sadly, we will lose Mr. Romo, and although we will miss him, he will have other opportunities. The school was proactive in sending out the returning/not-returning form so that they could plan ahead, and will do another push to make sure they have an accurate count. We currently have 20 spots left for UTK and when we are full, we are full.

Per the Bylaws Mr. Pedrotti appoints Mr. Joe Marsella, Ms. Amy Boelzle and Ms. Michelle Becker as the Faculty Representatives of the FFC for 2024-2025.

***Motion to approve Principal appointed faculty representatives – Christina Liu**

Second – Katarina Mansir

Motion to approve principal appointed faculty representatives passed unanimously; none opposed.

6. Staff – Mr. Joe Marsella, Ms. Boelzle, Ms. Becker

Nothing to report.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Spring Carnival

Claudine is happy to report that we have a healthy mix of activities, student performances, classroom performances, food vendors and cultural stations. We have also added a new area to celebrate the Olympics and will have an “Olympic” competition. There is a lot of outside prep going on and stuff moving around. She is hopeful that communications are being well received and that we will get a lot of volunteers.

Cathryn notes that ticket sales are on and you can buy your pre-bundle packages. We have already sold \$2K worth of tickets and hopefully we will see more sales.

And we always need more volunteers, if there are any parents online tonight willing to help, a lot of our volunteers are exhausted by this point in the year, so we applaud and appreciate the help of the High School kids coming in to help and volunteer, but please pass the word around that we can always use more volunteers and help from Faculty, former students and families.

Cathryn notes how special the World Fair/Spring Carnival is and thanks Claudine.

2. STEAM

Karthika has trouble with the microphone and types her notes.

“We are wrapping up. My To-do List is getting bigger. Yet to get the final count on Probots, will do it next week after Spring Carnival. Need to clean up older Arduino kits and organize them. Students did pretty well on Noetic Math. There was 1 Team Achievement award for 3rd Grade.”

Kelly reports that there isn’t much exciting or new going on, but we will be working on the challenges for the 3rd-5th graders – she will have more time to work on things over the summer. Greg needs to go into the STEAM room to work on cabinets and needs to know if there is a preferred place to be set up.

Mr. Pedrotti notes that the room is being used for testing, but then they will coordinate the best place to put the cabinets.

Cathryn thanks the Corteses for taking on the 3D printer acquirement and projects and taking on the extended STEAM challenges for the upper grades. And also thanks Mr. Pedrotti for helping get the 3D printers in motion.

5. EAR

Jessica is happy to report that they had the EAR celebration for the 4th graders and a couple 2nd graders yesterday. It went good and she had a lot of volunteers show up for that. Next month, she will host the celebration for the other grades, but still working on some details. She will be in touch with the teachers who will be part of the celebration. She has been offered an opportunity to be part of a video to promote EAR, so film crews will come to the school to film and interview, and details are being worked out. All the reading with the kids is being wrapped up and she is thankful for everyone and had a lot of volunteers who have said they will return and help again, so she is hopeful about that. She gives her thanks to everyone

and for Mr. Pedrotti's support and help along the way. She also thanks Ms. Boelzle for looking over a training packet that they are putting together.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

A shout out is given to Sandra for getting 730 pieces of artwork to the Del Mar Fairgrounds to be on display at the Fair. All students will get 1 ticket and each teacher gets 2 tickets to the fair.

It is also noted that this is Cathryn's last meeting as President of the Board. She is very appreciated for all she did serving as the President.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Attendants:

Dusty Pedrotti
Karthika Ramesh
Blaine Sheppard
Jessica Craig-Huynh
Christina Liu
Kimberly Kennelly
Blaine Sheppard
Cathryn McFearn
Kelly Cortese
Ivy Lam
Linnea Miller
Becca Ung
Indu Ramachandran
Katarina Mansir
Michelle Becker
Joe Marsella
Claudine Ricanor
Kelly Cortese
Sandra Atkinson
N. Martinez
Nesra Senol
Angie Couvrette