Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

3-24-2015 Drafted by Yvonne Johnson

* Delaware PTA bi annual board of managers was held on 3/24/15 at 6:30 pm in the library of Eden support center. The meeting was called to order by President Terri Hodges at 6:40 pm.
* Terri Hodges made introductions. All in attendance introduced themselves and identified what PTA they represented. Please see attached list for all those in attendance.
* The minutes from the Sept 2014 Board of Managers were reviewed. Yvonne moved, Bill 2nd , all were in favor. The minutes were accepted from 9/2014 Board of Managers meeting.
* Terri Carpe reviewed the finances. Discussed all the income and expenses in detail. Terri explained the pay pal system and noted that only $500 maximum, can be moved at one time to an account. The finance report will be filed.
* Terri Hodges shared information on increased incentives/scholarships to implement programs is available for all units in good standing. She encouraged the units to participate.
* Joan Simon reported on membership and the status of March Madness. She shared that DPTA as a state PTA has had a 2% increase this year over last year : TY: 6874 members as compared to LY: 6555.She described the March Madness incentives and that the winners will get to choose a PTA tablecloth or a banner for their school.
* Ashley discussed the role of a Region VP .It was explained that the Region VPs are available to help the unit leaders. Terri Hodges explained that units can complete a field service request, found in the forms library on the Delaware PTA website, delawarepta.org, if a unit is need of support.
* Terri Hodges reported on the military committee. She shared that the military appreciation spread to Allen Freer and that other units can take advantage of this.
* Terri Hodges also shared region 6 updates. Terri Carpe discussed region 5 and any updates. Yvonne Johnson reported on region 2 as acting region VP. A new unit will chartered, Cooke Elementary School, this month. It was shared that region 3 CSD will go out for referendum again in May.

Committee Updates:

* Terri Hodges asked for volunteers for the 2015 Convention Committee. It will be held at Del Tech in Dover again this year on Nov 21. This is an ad hoc committee and needs a chair and members to plan.
* Joan Simon discussed that according to the State PTA bylaws a nominating committee needs to be formed. Susan Parsons agreed to chair again this year. Yvonne Johnson and Pam Sayers agreed to serve on the committee.
* Ashley discussed the youth leadership summit the place: Middletown High School, April 25, 2015. She is looking for sponsorships and/or donations. She explained the theme and ask for leaders to spread the word.
* Yvonne Johnson gave updates on the advocacy committee and the 3 main asks for this upcoming legislative session: weighted funding, digital recording of public school board meetings, and parent opt out/SBAC. She shared information about Advocacy Day in Dover and explained registration would be coming out soon. Yvonne shared with the leaders DPTA’s trip to USDOE and discussed the process of submitting for the ESEA waiver. Delaware PTA submitted a position statement and a financial plan to ensure there is meaningful and measurable family engagement in the waiver and reauthorization.
* Bill Doolittle gave an update on Special Education/ECC Committee. He explained that there has been a lot of progress on the improvement of IEPs. He reviewed the federal intervention on the lack of quality Spec Ed services in Delaware and has shared that progress was being made. He discussed the Spec Ed K-3 legislation, IDEA indicator 17 and the K-3 literacy. The ECC committee is a very active committee
* Terri Carpe gave an update on Reflections. Year and year we have more special artists included. Allan Freer participated this year. There was a 20% increase in participation this year over last year. The winners will be recognized at a celebration ceremony on April 21 held at Newark High School. Natalie Ganc and Katie Hughes from the audience suggested that DPTA present the Reflections program to the Related Arts curriculum councils to expand participation.
* Yvonne and Terri discussed the SBAC and the parent opt out movement. They shared that there have been several parent opt out town halls. Attended by both parents and teachers. It was shared that the Delaware DOE said there will be no consequences for taking the test or for not taking the test, for students. The DDOE also claimed that students should receive constructive instruction if they are opted out. There was robust discussion on what is actually occurring in the schools for students who have been opted out. Districts are handling this in different ways. There was a big discussion on the students who were opted out from SBAC still were forced to take the interim testing. Each school district is handling this in it’s own way. Parents are worried for their teachers and schools. Students have been threatened that if they do not participate in SBAC it will prevent them from getting into TAG programs and other such incentives. After robust discussion Terri Hodges asked for a motion. The motion read:

“We will be voting in favor of the Delaware PTA to officially support a parents’ right to opt their child out of the state assessment in Math and ELA in its entirety.

Yvonne moved, Joan second. The vote was 22 yes, 2 abstentions, 1 no.

Motion passes and Delaware PTA will be supporting HB #50 that calls for the parent’s right to opt out.

* Terri Hodges briefly touched on the priority schools in Red Clay and Christina School Districts.
* Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm