



Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Dora Kennedy French Immersion PTA
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DKFI PTA General Meeting Minutes 01-10-18

Board members in attendance: Halima Jenkins, Anton Viegas, Eleanor Cupp, Geraldine Hall
Halima Jenkins (President) called the meeting to order at 7:10

Key Notes from the Principal

- The building is cold AND hot. Send your child to school with clothing for both extremes. We are working on stabilizing the heating and cooling, but it's not perfect.
- Lost and found bin is already starting to fill up; please ask your students to check for lost items.
- Code of conduct assembly is(was) on Friday, January 12. Reminder of school rules (mandatory meeting).
- The French Embassy is sending an envoy for teacher professional development and to meet with parents.
- Science Fair judging is (was) set for January 17—*Now rescheduled for 1/23/18.*
- Testing for students in K-2nd grade is in January. Please work to ensure good attendance.
- PSAT 8&9 results are in. Our students did very well. Results will be distributed shortly.

Special Guest Highlights

PGCPS Arts Integration Office members presented on Arts Integration at DKFI, concept, rollout, and impact and faculty instruction and coordination. Ms. Wise is seeking donations and fingerprinted French-speaking artist parent volunteers.

DKFI PTA Meeting Outline *(Expanded content included in Detailed Meeting Notes, below)*

Call Meeting to Order

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Arts Integration Presentation

Principal's Report

Legislative Committee Update

Setting legislative priorities, Upcoming meetings requiring coverage, Research needs

Event Committee Update

STEM fair judging and awards

Les étoiles filantes (January 2018)

Ice Skating, January 28th (volunteers, donations needed immediately)

Valentine sales (volunteers needed)

Adjourn meeting

Video of this meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL2vpNeAy60>

The NEXT DKFI PTA meeting DEVIATES FROM THE NORMAL SCHEDULE AND will be February 7th, 7:00 pm, in the multipurpose room (cafeteria). Mark your calendars: DKFI PTA meetings occur on the 2nd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

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From the DKFI PTA--Some important events (this list is not all-inclusive; dates, events, and times are subject to change; events in blue are PTA sponsored, those in grey are past at the time of minutes distribution)

Date	Time	Event	Location	For more information
Immediate	ongoing	Teacher and staff wishlist	https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation	DKFIPTA.org
Immediate	ongoing	DKFI PTA Committee signup	https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation	http://www.dkfipta.org/committees.html
Immediate	ongoing	Euro Store staffing	DKFI	DKFIPTA.org To volunteer , go to http://signup.com/go/SQNUcQJ
Tues, Jan 23	5:00 pm	Budget Work Session	Laurel HS	http://www.pgcps.org/board/
Tues, Jan 23	7:00 pm	FY2019 Operating Budget Public Hearing	Laurel HS	http://www.pgcps.org/board/
Tues, Jan 23	9:00-3:30	STEM Fair judge support	school	<i>PTA Board members staffing support for judges owing to late-breaking date change</i>
Sun, Jan 28, 2018	2:00-4:00	Ice Skating	Herbert Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740	buy tickets at https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com/activityitem?id=21766&school_id=00000240003 Volunteer and donate at http://signup.com/go/qkeLPwX we need help to make this happen
Tues, Jan 30	5:00 pm	Budget Work Session	Central HS	http://www.pgcps.org/board/
Tues, Jan 30	7:00 pm	FY2019 Operating Budget Public Hearing	Central HS	http://www.pgcps.org/board/
Tues, Jan 30	3:00-4:00 pm	French Embassy Parent Literacy Training	school	contact school
Thurs, Feb 1	1:00 pm	PGCPS Board Meeting	Sasscer Admin Building in Upper Marlboro	http://www.pgcps.org/board/
Wed Feb 7	7:00 pm	DKFI PTA meeting, with STEM Fair awards	cafeteria	DKFIPTA.org
Feb 12-13	school day	Valentine Sales	school	DKFIPTA.org <i>stay tuned for volunteer sign up</i>
March, TBD	TBD	March Madness Flapjack Fundraiser	Applebees	<i>This event is in the works—stay tuned!</i>

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Detailed Meeting Notes

Call to Order

7:10 pm

Approval of Minutes

Geraldine Hall (Secretary) reviewed the December general meeting minutes. Body approved minutes.

Finance Update

Anton Viegas (Treasurer) reviewed December treasurer's report, including income and expenditures. Highlights include \$1,039.70 generated through donations made through the Barnes and Noble gift wrapping initiative. Thank you to the volunteers who made that happen. Escrip and Amazon Smile generated \$128.98; thank you to those donors. Restaurant nights generated \$504.23 to date. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Motion to approve finance report passed.

Question: How can people donate directly to a school fund rather than purchase items?

A: M. Awono says it is a nice thought, and he must investigate. Once that information is gathered, the PTA will post it on the Web site. Halima mentioned that all PTA funding goes to the school, students, and staff; M Awono seconded that and said donations to the PTA benefit the school, so that is a good option. Halima noted that through teacher wish lists, families donated 300+ items to teachers, and the PTA has purchased over \$5,000 in requested items. Thank you to the DKFI families and supporters.

The body made and passed a motion to approve the treasurer report.

Special Guest Highlights

Mrs. Emily Wise, our band teacher, introduced the Arts integration (AI) Plan for the school. The entire county is enacting this program; however, DKFI is on the forefront of the rollout. The County's Committee discussed the program.

Presenters included John Ceschini, AI Officer; Amy Rosenkrans, PhD, Executive Coordinator for AI; and Marlo Castillo, AI Resource Teacher.

Q: What is arts integration? Why?

- AI is infusion of arts into science and math to heighten learning in memorable ways. Fine tuning curriculum to integrate the arts into other subjects (music, visual, dance, etc.)
- Students are coproducers of knowledge
- Art integration students' test scores actually are rising at Capitol Heights Elementary School, where the program has been piloted.

Currently, the AI program exists in 73 schools. This is the first year it is in all immersion schools.

Attention, attendance, and engagement are increased through arts engagement. Curriculum change is not immediate and across all classrooms. It is a process and a lot of training occurs.

Q: Why is art important? Why do we want our children to take part in a play or play an instrument? Sample parent answers: build community, use other parts of the brain.

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A: Research shows increased critical thinking and problem-solving skills, improved cognition, as evidenced through emerging neuroscience; encouraging an appreciation of diversity; strengthening parent and community engagement

With AI, attendance is better, and referrals to discipline are lower; tolerance (and community) increase—allowing our students to become those 21st century citizens. Ms Wise is the DKFI lead teacher, and receives special training. Ai implementation includes enrichment for teachers, Crayola CreatED Creative Leadership; Arts organization partner partnerships. Ai is used to teach students thinking skills, and artful (or deep) thinking.

More information is available at: <http://www1.pgcps.org/artsintegration/>
And Pzartfulthinking.org

Parent Q: Do you provide written materials for the classroom? They would be in English.

A: We've translated all elements at <http://sites.google.com/pgcps.org/artsintegration>

The office is also working with the Immersion office so that we can offer connections with French-speaking artists and writers, etc.

Staff training has just started. For example, Mr. Mills has already started. The English team has already started. A team of about 10 teachers is part of the Crayola Leadership group and will spread it through the rest of the teachers. Teachers are looking for natural connections of subjects and topics with the art. Teachers make choices of where a good fit.

Parent Q: How can parents help support this?

A: Money and supply donations would be helpful and always appreciated. Ms. Wise is attempting to stock an arts integration closet. She is also seeking French-speaking artist parent volunteers (fingerprinted). Contact Ms. Wise (nee Shevell) at emily.shevell@pgcps.org if you would like to help.

We have 4 teacher residencies in the works. Ms. Wise applied for and has received grant money from the MD State Arts Council to fund steel drummers coming to the school.

Arts currently include music, dance, drama, visual, and media arts. A parent suggested adding culinary arts

Parent Q: Will there be continued training and support for the teachers as they integrate the arts?

A: Yes. The entire budget of the program is for professional development. Ms. Wise brings the training back to the teachers

Parent Q: When will it be in all classrooms?

A: Each school moves at its own pace. It is the goal that all classrooms include it.
You can ask your teacher how they are using it and offer to assist.

Parent Q: What is the source of funding for the arts teachers?

A: Ms. Wise will investigate and get back to us on funding. We use the resources we have.

Principal's Report

The weather is cold, and the building is cold AND hot. Please send your child to school with clothing for both extremes. We are working on stabilizing the heating and cooling, but it's not perfect.

Students must take their coats back home. The lost-and-found bin is already starting to fill up. When students don't have jackets at bus time, we try to send them back to get their coat, but we cannot catch them all.

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Code of Conduct assembly is on Friday, January 12. This is a mandatory reminder of school rules.

At the end of this month (January 30th), we have someone coming from the French Embassy for professional development (how to use youth literature). This teacher also would like to meet with parents for literacy training from 3:00-4:00. The PTA will have and post details as they are available.

January 17, we have science project fair at the school. Mr. Mills is organizing the event. **(UPDATE: due to school weather closing, this event is postponed. New date is TBD.)**

In January students in K-2nd grade will have testing. Please plan on full attendance for your students

PSAT 8&9 results are in. Our students did very well. Results will be distributed shortly. Our students learn in French and take test in English. We teach students how to learn; they can be successful in many areas. We also have a fantastic English teacher team who supports us.

Parent Q: Can we call out the birthdays for the summer birthday kids, as we do for the children with birthdays during the school year?

A: we can try

Legislative Committee Update

(Parent and Committee Chair Laura Rammelsberg presented)

Committee information: Thank you, volunteers. We have more members this year, and we still need to organize group and discuss priorities and goals for our lobbying and representing. We will hold a conference call this weekend to that end. Topics of need include:

- Legislative committee priority survey (forthcoming)
- School board and other legislative rep outreach (who are our constituents?)
- School board meeting notetaking (thanks to Nichelle Mandjila, Dora Kennedy French Immersion School Legislative Committee Member, who took notes on the 12/19 meeting.)
- January 23, and 30th meetings need coverage for the Budget Work Sessions (Laurel and Central HS, respectively)
- Feb 1, 1pm Board Meeting at Sasscer Amin Building) **NEED VOLUNTEERS**
- Does anybody know of meet-and-greets with school board members? We will need to connect with them and ask for help for our budget priorities
- The Kirwan Commission (Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) meeting at ERHS, sponsored by state Senator Paul Pinsky and PG County School Board Member Lupi Grady, is at 6:30 pm on January 11 and needs attendance and note taking.
- Research is needed into casino funding for schools. It appears that the Governor is using that money for things other than education. We need more info. Is anyone available to look into this issue?

Halima reported Language Immersion Task Force. Next meeting is later in January. A stronger emphasis on the math-related language students need for word programs can support their reading and writing skills across the curriculum.

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Event Committee update

(by Halima Jenkins)

Only for those students who registered their projects on line (and on time), electronic STEM Fair (grades 3rd-7th) were scheduled to present to judges on January 17—**POSTPONED DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURE. New date is 1/23.**

PTA will provide breakfast and lunch for 12 judges. Please check DKFIPTA.org for signup to volunteer for

Set up

Food donations

Clean up

At February PTA meeting, pending timing of the judging, we will have awards from Mr. Mills.

Les étoiles filantes (January 2018): Proceeds from B&N gift wrapping pay for publication of this literary journal. The current edition is currently nearly complete. All staff and published students will receive a free copy; additional copies are available for purchase for \$5 (to help cover printing costs). A digital version will be posted to the PTA web site.

Another issue comes in June. We applied for an ACE grant to help pay for this issue. We should find out later in the month whether we received that funding.

Sunday, January 28: Ice Skating event, coordinated by Eleanor Cupp. We can sell up to 200 tickets. We get half of the proceeds for tickets. We keep all proceeds from the concessions for items we provide and sell. Event will be 2:00-4:00. We will need volunteers for food donations and helping to set up, sell, and clean up. Sign up to donate or help at

<http://signup.com/go/qkeLPwX>

to purchase tickets, go to https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com/activityitem?id=21766&school_id=000000240003

Valentine sales. (February 12-13) Generally we sell many small items, also offering items that are not candy. Volunteers are needed for assembling items, processing orders, delivery of orders at school, Lunchtime sales.

Signup on line. More information will be available at our February 7 PTA meeting.

Some of these volunteer tasks do not require fingerprinting (those not at the school, for example, at the ice rink), and assembling orders for Valentines wishes.

Next DKFI PTA meeting: February 7, the first Wednesday of the month (NOT the usual 2nd Wednesday).

In February, we will need a nominating committee (3 people who run the PTA elections, collecting nominations, sharing that info with the membership). If you are on the nominating committee, you may NOT run for a board position. Elections take place in May. Any person interested in running may contact the nominating committee in April

PGCPS fingerprinting workshops are generally on Thursdays. Next one is January 25th at a school near FedEx Field. Check the PGCPS web site for dates. It's a way to volunteer in the school. Go to <http://www1.pgcps.org/fingerprinting/>

Parent Q: Will there be a talent show this year?

A: Halima Jenkins will follow up with Mr. Cunningham and post info to the listservs. Parent suggestion is that move the lost and found bin to cafeteria, and perhaps lay things out on table. We will ask office folks if this would work here.

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