



## Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Dora Kennedy French Immersion PTA

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# DKFI PTA General Meeting Minutes 03-14-18

(All Board members attending)

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

Call Meeting to Order

Approval of Minutes

Finance Update

Brief PTA Update

Need for DKFI PTA Board Nominating committee, voting May 9 PTA meeting

Spring dance for middle schoolers

Teacher Appreciation

Other upcoming Events and Initiatives

Recess Committee Update

PARCC Testing Overview and Resources

Practice exams

Principal's Discussion

Student Walk out

Lost-and-found bin

Budget priorities and process

Parent questions

Legislative Committee Update

Upcoming BOE meetings and need for parent reporting

Legislative Priority Survey results

Language Immersion Task Force

Closing Parent questions and comments

*The NEXT DKFI PTA meeting will be **April 11th, 7:00 pm**, in the multipurpose room (cafeteria). Mark your calendars: DKFI PTA meetings occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.*

*A focus of the April meeting will be gathering information on improving communication for our community. Please come and provide your thoughts.*

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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	<a href="https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation">https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation</a>	DKFIPTA.org
Immediate	ongoing	DKFI PTA Committee signup	<a href="https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation">https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2047994/false#/invitation</a>	<a href="http://www.dkfipta.org/committees.html">http://www.dkfipta.org/committees.html</a>
Immediate	ongoing	Euro Store staffing	DKFI	DKFIPTA.org <b>To volunteer</b> , go to <a href="http://signup.com/go/SQNUcQJ">http://signup.com/go/SQNUcQJ</a>
March 26-29	school days, Mon-Thurs	Spirit Week Mon: Superhero Tues: DKFI Day Wed: Crazy Hair/Neon Day Thurs Jersey Day	school	main office
March 26	6:00-7:30 pm	Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Committee Meeting	Sasscer Administration Building, 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD	Volunteer needed to attend, take notes, report back  for meeting details. See <a href="http://go.activecalendar.com/pgcps/event/parent-family-and-community-engagement-committee-meeting-13/">http://go.activecalendar.com/pgcps/event/parent-family-and-community-engagement-committee-meeting-13/</a>
April 4	5:00-7:00 pm	Capital Improvement Program Meeting	Sasscer Administration Building, 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD	Volunteer needed to attend, take notes, report back  for meeting information, see <a href="http://go.activecalendar.com/pgcps/event/capital-improvement-program-meeting/">http://go.activecalendar.com/pgcps/event/capital-improvement-program-meeting/</a>
April 13, <i>tentative</i>	7:00-9:00 pm	DKFI Family BINGO night	DKFI cafeteria	Volunteers are needed to hold the event; stay tuned for sign up
April 22		DKFI Rollerskating	Lanham Skate Center, 9901 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD	Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, and on site to sell and collect tickets; stay tuned for sign up
May 6 (originally scheduled for March 25)		Savers Fundraiser, Spring Cleaning item collection; supports Teacher Wish List items	DKFI main parking lot	<i>stay tuned</i> Volunteers are needed to collect and load items into the truck, Item donations are requested
May, <i>TBD</i>		Middle School dance	DKFI	<i>stay tuned</i> Volunteers are needed to organize and run the event

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May, TBD		Teacher appreciation activities	DKFI	<i>stay tuned</i> Volunteers are needed to organize and implement activities and luncheon
TBD		Silver Diner Restaurant Night		<i>stay tuned. More information to come as it is available</i>

# Detailed Meeting Notes

## Call to Order

7:07 pm

## Approval of Minutes

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

## Finance Update

Anton Viegas (Treasurer) reviewed the February treasurer's report, including income and expenditures. Motion to approve finance report passed.

## Brief PTA Update: Halima Jenkins (President)

Need nomination committee (3 persons) for the upcoming DKFI PTA Board elections. Voting will occur at May 9 PTA meeting. If not all posts filled at that time then, additional election will be held at the June meeting to fill all spots. Note that those on the nominating committee may not run for office in this cycle. Email us at [Dkfipta.org](mailto:Dkfipta.org) if you would like to run or be on the committee. The PTA must have a functioning board to continue.

Spring dance for Middle school in May. PTA will secure facility form, dj, and security. Others are needed to plan and staff the dance. More details to come on to the listservs.

Teacher appreciation is in May. Generally parents provide a nice luncheon, including a mix of catered and donated items from families. Cards, small words of kindness also need coordination and volunteers. Help is needed to organize and fulfill. Info will be disseminated in April or May

~~March 25~~ (**Now Rescheduled May 6 due to bad weather**), our Savers Fundraiser at the school. To get a start on your spring cleaning and support the school, your gently worn clothing and household items will be accepted and donated to Value Village. We load it up in a truck in the school parking lot and Value Village accepts the items and pays the school for donations by weight

DKFI Rollerskating will be on Sunday, April 22, at the Lanham Skate Center, 9901 Lanham Severn Road, Lanham, MD. See on listservs for more details. Anyone with a ticket may come; the event is not limited to DKFI students. Ticket holders may also stay later for the open skate.

The Talent show was a great success. Thanks to Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Held for their contributions as well as the parents, grandparents, and teens who helped. For the show, we sold approximately 400 tickets (about 2x last year).

## Recess Committee update: Anna

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The committee met to discuss concerns and suggestions and devise short- and long-term goals. Will meet with principal to discuss. The committee is accepting more members. Field Day suggestions are welcome. Plans to come. Ms. Fisher (gym teacher) would like to begin planning soon.

## PARCC Testing Overview and Resources: M. Djeutcha

M. Djeutcha discussed PARCC testing and PARCC testing resources for students and parents, as well as the need for students to practice PARCC testing at home.

Practice tests are available on line to support students and parents

**Testing April 16-May 25.** Finalized schedule to come.

**PARC is for grade 3-HS only**

Analytical skills, as well as hands-on practice, are needed for testing success. Tests critical thinking skills. Explain to the child that the tests will be initially hard, but gets easier.

Practice exams are available:

1. Log in <http://parcc.pearson.com/>
2. On the top, click on Test Preparations, and then scroll down to Practice Tests
3. Click on green rectangles to view ELA/Literacy or Math Practice Test
4. On the left side, click on your grade level, then on Computer-Based Practice Test Unit 1
5. Write your name then click on Start Test Now, then on Start Section
6. Good luck with your Unit 1
7. To work on Unit 2 and Unit 3, repeat the above steps

Tell students to **MAKE SURE YOU READ ALL THE DIRECTIONS first**

The children need to practice using the technology. At-home practice is very helpful. In school, the students are using Chrome books and also computers in the computer lab.

Q: touch pad or mouse?

A: practice at home. If your child has special testing needs (like left-handed), tell the teachers in advance

At each child's Clever account, there are typing tutorials for free

Go to: [Clever.pgcps.org](http://Clever.pgcps.org)

Enter student's user name and password

Testing April 16-May 25. Finalized schedule to come.

PARC is for grade 3-HS only

Additional resources are available:

- PARCC offers information about the assessments including fact sheets, a glossary and sample test questions.
  - <http://parcconline.org/for-parents>
- (State or district) Resources
  - (Add state resources here)

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- National Parent Teacher Association offers grade-by-grade parent guides for student success. Available in English and Spanish.
  - [www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583](http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583)
- Great Schools offers Milestones, a free online collection of videos aimed at helping parents understand grade-level expectations in grades K-5.
  - <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones/>
- America Achieves – Raise the Bar offers free parent resources to help children succeed in school. Must sign up.
  - <http://raisethebarparents.org/raise-the-bar-for-your-child>

## Principal discussion: M. Awono

The [Student Walk out](#) on March 14 was not sponsored by school; however, the County was supportive of students' rights to express themselves. Only middle schoolers and a few 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated. Not younger children.

Parents, please ask your child to check the [lost-and-found bin](#) for lost items.

M. Awono discussed the [upcoming budget](#), including student-based budgeting, shared how money for the children is being used, and solicited feedback.

Most of budget is for salaries and employee benefits (state and in school), 63% of requested budget  
County proves framework (strategic plan) for initiatives and resources, including Academic Excellence, high performing workforce, safe and supportive environment

Expenses: spending is reported based on 15 spending categories defined by state of MD  
Requested budget is +3.7% over last year

Student-based budgeting (means money is for each student, so smaller enrollment means less money)  
Budget process restructuring a few years ago—so changed from staff-based model to per-pupil model  
With this structure, the school determines staff and teacher numbers, to a certain extent (must be transparent and responsible, of course)

704 is projected enrollment (up from current 650)

Base funding + grade weights, ELL weights, performance weights (reading below grade level, academic student support needs)

Funding for students with IEPs and % for 504 students (special education students) funding comes from federal government

### DKFI spending priorities:

School-based resources (Current and desired changes)

M. Awono met with the school leadership committee today

Q: What is most important for you and your child?

Examples:

- Support for struggling students
- Gifted students
- Enrichment opportunities (field trips, guest speakers, guest artists, math visitors, extended learning etc, clubs)

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- Classroom materials/supplies
- Professional development for teachers and staff
- Other

M. Awono questioned the members what their priorities are (we will also send out survey to families)

A big focus is how to support struggling students.

Parent question: last year, were their paraprofessional aids for kindergarten classes?

A: Yes, but we could not maintain the funding. The needs overall of the school are increasing, and also, of course, spending. Previously, the school had no asst. principal position. It needs one. That has an implication on funding for other staffing. We currently have a reading specialist from France. That person will return to France next year.

We have a grant to receive an intern from France (graduate student). That person needs a host family. If anyone knows of a possible host family, please contact the school.

Currently enrollment is 650; next year 704 is projected.

For funding consideration: there are 2 types of positions (locked, which are funded by the central office, like principal, X type Y teachers, etc.); then there is other type, for teachers and staff (immersion office funded 7.5 staff positions)

Q: does state and county treat us as 1 or 2 schools (since we combine elementary and middle schools)?

A: we are treated/funded as 1 school

Q: What professional development is needed?

A: PG County does provide many opportunities for development. This is great; however, there are times when many teachers are absent for enrichment (and we thus need substitute teachers). Consequently, we will not spend much on professional development in the coming year.

Arts integration needs are funded by the county.

Q: is there a requirement for a security officer in an elementary school?

A: yes. If not a full-time person, they share with other schools.

The school has been granted 2 security officer positions. Officer Collins is now starting. We might have an additional officer.

Q: are they armed?

A: no (as of now, PG County has not armed school security officers)

Parent comment: we need to discuss school security, eg, use of metal detectors (considering number of doors in school and that the criminals are more heavily armed than the police and security officers)

A: If you see a door propped open, or you enter without being asked for ID, please notify administration.

Security officers are locked funding, so their funding does not take away from funding other positions.

Security officer checks doors, walks around to ensure everyone is safe, and is present so that students know she's here and approachable if they have concerns.

We intend to keep our high-quality school

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Q: do school officers have direct communication with county police?

A; yes, and police regularly stop by

Q: what are some resources could or are being provided to gifted students? In classroom and beyond

A: we know we have TAG students (GMH spell that out). Providing Junior Great Books and other items. This discussion is worthy of more discussion, but not the current focus (this is my words---gmh)

A; all teachers teaching TAG students have TAG training

TAG students are spread throughout the classes

Parent suggested that recruiting, training, maintaining teachers is important and that enrichment here might be different considering that our teachers face different problems

Parent questioned support for teachers in implementing best practices in the classroom (Mme Boukabara helps with this)

Q: having new toys for the children (learning toys)?

For example, for indoor recess

Q: Sophia Mensah asks for paraprofessionals, 1 for each class

Paraprofessionals were supplied by county for each kindergarten class; then funding for those posts was removed

A: M. Awono would love to have more adults in the building to take care of the students. Realistically, we cannot even have 1 para per grade level. We currently have 1 para for the school

Parent comment: Need some student-based learning, like play to learn French. Perhaps that ties into professional development, or toys.

A: All kindergarten students are learning French for the first time, and reading for first time. As the year goes on, they will generally improve

Fair point on development for the teachers, so that teachers learn about student-based learning, like games

Q: What about student teachers? Are university students available?

A: we are not lucky enough to get student teachers in French. We have had some in counseling. We welcome student teachers. Conversations with UMD, but nothing has yet materialized.

Parent suggests that the need for paraprofessionals is high and should be supported

And also spending money on teacher development on student-based learning

A: M Awono will ask for paraprofessionals. From our own funds, currently, we do not have funding

Q: Parent asks what the process is for when decisions are made by school

A: submit to central office, toward end of April, we will get answers on how funding is distributed; plan to discuss with parents the funding before school year is up.

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Process for class assignments are made in May, and they hope to pass out assignments before school year ends. Not definitive.

## Legislative committee update: Laura Rammelsberg

- Committee will post legislative priority survey results on the PTA web site so you all can see results
- Notes for last 2 school board meetings were taken, and will be posted as they are completed
- Meetings needing parent coverage:
  - Board of Education meeting 7:05 needs coverage to take notes and report back (*see Important Events calendar at top of notes*)
  - Parent engagement committee on April 4 needs coverage to take notes and report back (*see Important Events calendar at top of notes*)
  - April 4, Capital Improvement meeting needs volunteers to take notes and report back (deals with physical structures of schools) 5:00 pm (*see Important Events calendar at top of notes*)
- May County Council budget meetings are really important since they determine what they ask for at state level. Parents need to attend to voice their priorities. Even holding up a sign to support school budget is helpful

Legislative Priority Survey overview (1<sup>st</sup> of its kind from PTA) 52 families responded (of 170+ requested). Will help us prioritize. Summary will include survey and comment results.

Subjects included recruiting, training, maintaining

Adequate teaching staff

Availability of specials (art, pe, music, tech)

Results will also be shared with school administration. Some issues can be addressed by PTA or committee, not just for the administration directly.

Possibly the committee will have a listening and brainstorm session to gather more input. If you really feel strongly about an issue, this is a good time and place to bring those issues forward

In regard to the issue of paraprofessionals, for example, the committee members suggest that we advocate for all K classes county wide, not just in our school. Contact School board member, county council members on these issues

## Language Immersion Task Force (Halima Jenkins)

Last meeting focused on expanding Mandarin and Spanish programs to higher grades (i.e., beyond elementary school) And structure and process for that.

Currently, the county spends about \$400 per student for transportation for each child at a local school; for specialty school child, approx \$2400/student. This cost is a consideration when discussing expanding and maintaining the specialty schools

Q: What % of immersion students who continue on to Central HS?

A: Unsure. Approximately 20 students from the county

Q: Does DKFI have stats on where our 8<sup>th</sup> graders go for high school?

A: PTA does not have official stats on that.

Q: Perhaps parents can assist with orientation to help new parents get oriented and thus retain the students to pass on the real story of what the school is like.

A: We do have orientation and open houses.

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M. Boukabara will send out notices about upcoming events. Current parents are welcome. M Awono will take that suggestions to staff.

Q: Do we have stats on how many bilingual students utilize their language skills later on? That could support the claim that immersion is valuable?

Alumni tracking for language utility?

Do they still have their skills?

Can this be used to bolster the argument for creating a high school

## Closing Parent Questions and Comments

Q: Begin a Fun and School Atmosphere committee/fun committee? start of committee and initiative of spirit week, and teachers will contact families

Q: to increase fun at the school, maybe last week before spring break, prior to testing, spirit week or maybe dance for younger children?

A: We appreciate the ideas from families, we will work together

Q: to M. Awono--Parents would like to take their child to work on take your child to work day. Can the testing schedule accommodate that (so no testing on that day)?

A; there is a make-up day for sick students. If your child must miss that day, there is a make-up day

Q: who handles things like Black History month?

A from PTA: We have a Cultural Committee, but we didn't have anyone sign up for it.

We would like to have chair and parents. It is welcome

Initiative for Fun Committee can get started

9:27 Adjourn

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