

Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School

FALL RIVER • SOMERSET



SWANSEA • WESTPORT

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September 09, 2020

This meeting was held on Zoom, as in-person meetings are not allowed at this time.

Meeting Called To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Beth Cabral will take the minutes for this meeting.

Welcome

Lisa Desrosiers, PTO President welcomed the many parents that signed on to the first meeting of the school year. Attendance was the highest it has been in many years. Our mission was explained, which is to raise money, providing scholarships to students and for the Bengal Bash. The Bengal Bash is an end-of-year celebration for seniors, usually held the day after prom. We provide food and games, inflatables, caricaturist, air-brush tattoo artist and music. We also raffle prizes such as televisions, printers, cameras, laptops, gift cards, and other items either purchased or donated throughout the year.

Our scholarship selection process was also discussed. To be eligible for a scholarship, a student is required to donate 12 hours of their time in their 4 years at Diman. Grades and/or attendance are not a factor. Once we have all applications, winners are chosen at random by board members.

In attendance was Jeannine Carreiro, an educator at Diman, and the President of the Parent Advisory Council. She, along with Mary-Elizabeth Perry, Parent Liaison, briefly discussed their purpose and the correlation between both committees.

Introduction of Board Members

The PTO Board Members for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

Lisa Desrosiers-President

Cheryl Costa-Vice-President

Michelle Roseberry-Treasurer

Beth Cabral-Secretary

Judy Davis-Bengal Bash Coordinator

Kerri Thro-Bengal Bash Coordinator

Joe Costa-Bengal Bash Coordinator

All board member contact information is available on the Diman website, on the Parent page.

Financial

Financial report has been reviewed and reconciled.

Fundraising Options

Due to the pandemic, we have had to cancel/postpone many of our fundraising events (i.e. football game concessions, craft fair, car show, paint night, etc.), so we are asking for everyone's help in thinking of creative ways to raise funds for our scholarships and, hopefully, the Bengal Bash.

Many great alternatives were given:

Giving Back-getting a percentage for take-out orders from local restaurants.

Crazy Socks

National Discount Card Program-a discount card which can be used at many local restaurants/stores.

Stainless steel drinkware

Custom Diman face masks

Pura Vida bracelets with Diman colors

A special Facebook page for our crafters giving us a percentage of all sales

Possibly revisiting our planned night with Woodman Décor, if we can secure a safe space and adhere to social distancing guidelines

All ideas are welcome, and everyone was encouraged to contact us anytime.

Open Discussion

Mary-Elizabeth Perry, Parent Liaison, spoke about a recruitment plan being put in place for parents. On the Parent page, and the PTO and PAC pages, there is a brochure that describes both groups. If someone is unsure how they can be involved, but is unable to attend a meeting, they can email Mary-Elizabeth and she will let them know they can follow the agendas and minutes of each group. If they are interested, she would send their information to Lisa or Jeannine, or the parent could contact them directly. This helps to make sure parents are informed, especially if they did not get word of a meeting or cannot attend.

One of the parents in attendance asked if the PTO uses the funds for things other than scholarships and the Bengal Bash. The PTO has helped with many things within the community. We have created holiday baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas for Diman families, and donated funds and items to Pereira's Light Show. Donations to the light show are used to fill Christmas stockings for displaced children at Child and Family Services. Also, we have donated to St Vincent's hat & glove drive, and "adopted" a family in need at Christmas.

We were extremely happy with the number of parents attending this meeting. We understand how difficult it can be to attend meetings when they are held at the school, and unfortunately it affects the number of volunteers we can get at our events. Going virtual has allowed us to reach more people, which in turns gives us more input and ideas, and hopefully, more volunteers. Volunteering is NOT a requirement, but it is greatly appreciated. Time and/or donated items are always welcome. An hour or so here, a baked good there, we will take it. It was asked what would happen when we are allowed back in school for meetings. If we achieve success with virtual meetings, we will look into having a livestream during in-person meetings. Since we have a few time restrictions on Zoom, we are going to attempt meetings on Google Meet going forward.

PTO meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month, except January, June, July, and August.

The PTO email address is DIMANPTO23@comcast.net. Any parent interested in joining, or have any questions, concerns, or fundraising ideas, are encouraged to email the PTO at this address and provide their name and contact info, and their student's name.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Beth Cabral, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.