Daniel Hand High School
Minutes of the PTO Meeting Tuesday, October 4, 2022, Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Salutari called the meeting to order at 8:02 am. In attendance were Brian Bodner, DHHS Assistant Principal; Christine Coyle, DHHS Guidance College and Career Counselor; Jaime Del Mauro, DHHS Security Specialist; Chris Farrell, DHHS Director of Athletics; Dawn Fiorelli, DHHS Library Coordinator; Beth O'Keefe, Nite-in-Hand Co-Chair; Ofc. Robert O'Neill, SRO; Jonathan Pardo, DHHS Security Specialist; Corey Rice, DHHS Chemistry Teacher; Jan Scott, DHHS PTO President; Melanie Whitcher, DHHS Assistant Principal; and a total of 33 meeting participants.

PTO UPDATES: Scott thanked families for their generous support of the PTO and noted the positive response at the Open House on September 8th. To date, 171 families paid membership dues. Parents and guardians are encouraged to email the DHHS PTO with future meeting suggestions at DanielHandPTO@gmail.com.

NITE-IN-HAND (NIH) UPDATE: O'Keefe noted the success of NIH 2022 with the return to pre-COVID festivities. O'Keefe called for volunteers and directed families to the SignUpGenius on the NIH website page. O'Keefe welcomed families to attend an organizational meeting on Tuesday, October 11th, 6:30 pm at Scranton Library and by Zoom. Zoom link to follow. Families were encouraged to email NIH with questions at niteinhandmail@gmail.com.

SECURITY UPDATE: Salutari introduced security specialists Del Mauro and Pardo, and student resource officer, Ofc. O'Neill who each provided a brief professional background. Del Mauro outlined the process for welcoming visitors to DHHS, including procedures for leaving items for students and background checks for those entering the building.

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS UPDATE: Salutari introduced Farrell, Director of Athletics, who joined DHHS on July 1, 2022. Farrell outlined his role to date including: program review and evaluation, stakeholder meetings, improved social media presence, and an updated calendar to include all athletic contests. Farrell noted further items for discussion to include branding and the need for updates to the policies and procedures of booster fundraising. A booster meeting will take place at the end of October or early November. Farrell welcomed families to email him with questions.

Salutari noted that student participation at events has increased overall this year and asked families to continue to encourage positive energy at contests.

COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR UPDATE: Salutari introduced Coyle and the new position of college and career counselor. Coyle outlined her position to date, including: an update to the college and career center, student surveys, planning meetings in collaboration with other schools, and the development of partnerships with Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

Coyle outlined the process for meeting with college admission counselors visiting DHHS in response to a question from a meeting participant.

FAB LAB UPDATE: Rice and Fiorelli introduced the fabrication lab that was created in response to the independent project requirement for graduation. Rice provided a virtual tour of the space and identified the following fabrication stations: electronics work bench, sewing machines, media production

equipment, vertical computer monitors for coding, 3D printers, vinyl cutter and plotter, CNC machine, digital arts table, and laser engraver.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE: Salutari provided a brief outline of the School Development Plan, a three-year plan with a focus on: academics, climate, talent, and systems.

Salutari noted that Homecoming will be held on October 15th, 7 to 10 pm. Tickets are available on Infinite Campus. Students are asked to attend in semi-formal dress. School code of conduct to apply.

Salutari informed of the upcoming Parent/Guardian Conferences planned for October 26th, 12 to 2:30 pm. Meetings will be held in person. Salutari encouraged families to make alternate arrangements if they are unable to attend.

Salutari reported on the progress of the New England Association Of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation program and noted a collaborative conference visit scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd. A decennial visit is planned for November 2024.

Salutari noted that graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 16th, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:06 am.

Respectively Submitted,

Nicole Wiles
Secretary