

De La Salle Parent Association Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2026

Recording Secretary: Patricia Pon

Betzy Lesser, President of the Parent Association, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Valerie Wright led the opening prayer at 7:02 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction: Mr. David Holquin, DLS President

President Holquin welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He encouraged parents to introduce themselves and their son or sons to those around them.

Presidential Report and Strategic Plan

President Holquin thanked the Parent Association for its partnership and recent support of faculty and staff through the "Stock the Staff Room" donations.

He provided an overview of the school's strategic plan, which is currently in its fourth year and focuses on five key areas: mission, organizational excellence, student success, educator quality, and philanthropy. Progress updates on these goals are typically shared with parents in October or November.

Leadership and School Culture Updates

President Holquin discussed the recent Leadership Summit for program directors and supervisors, which focused on responsible stewardship of school resources.

Following the school's recent Lasallian Catholic Assessment Process, DLS continues to focus on strengthening a sense of belonging among students, staff, and families. The administration is also emphasizing a culture of hospitality so that all members of the community feel welcomed, valued, and seen.

Parent Survey Results

President Holquin shared highlights from the May 2026 parent survey. Overall satisfaction was strong, with an average rating of 4.3 out of 5.0 and a Net Promoter Score of 58.66.

Areas receiving particularly positive feedback included emergency communication, student safety, facilities, and Catholic and Lasallian identity.

Opportunities identified for continued growth included:

- Communication from co-curricular programs regarding student participation
- Supporting strong communication between students and coaches
- Increasing awareness of mental health resources
- Providing timely co-curricular updates
- Strengthening opportunities for parent-to-parent connection

Student Retreat Highlights

Students recently participated in the all-school Maison retreat, which focused on three major themes: defining Brotherhood, strengthening academic success through metacognition, and considering the legacy each student hopes to leave.

The retreat also encouraged students to reflect on how they can move from being bystanders to upstanders when faced with challenging situations in their communities.

Spartan Updates: Mr. David Holquin, DLS President

- Black Box Theater production of *Rhinoceros*: August 20 to August 22
- Out-of-State College Fair, hosted at Carondelet: August 24
- Mass of the Holy Spirit: August 26
- Welcome Dance: August 29
- Back-to-School Night: September 3
- No School, Faculty and Staff Retreat: September 4
- Freshman Pre-Game Mixer before the football game against Cardinal Newman High School: September 4

Parent Association President: Betzy Lesser

Introduction of Parent Association Board Members

Betzy Lesser introduced the Parent Association Board members for the 2026–27 school year:

- President: Betzy Lesser
- Vice President: Tara Preston
- Expense Administrator: Christina Heil
- Secretary: Patricia Pon

Betzy thanked the volunteers who helped sort House T-shirts for students before the start of school and offered a special welcome to parents of new students.

Parent Association Board and Chair Reports

Freshman Parent Representatives

Betzy shared that the event for the Sophomore Class, which is supported by the Freshman Class, will look a little different this year and will require additional coordination and planning. The Sophomore Class event will take place on Sunday, September 20. The school will provide event information, and the Freshman Class parent team will assist with execution and volunteer coordination.

Sophomore Parent Representatives: Tavoria Wilson-Morton

Tavoria reported on the successful Freshman Welcome Liturgy and BBQ. This year's event incorporated the House System, with students wearing name tags identifying their House and receiving beads in their House color. The event included interactive activities and a DJ. Families were also welcomed with green beads. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to welcome new students and families into the De La Salle community.

Junior Parent Representatives: Ariana Marbley

Ariana shared that the Junior Class parent group is responsible for supporting this year's Senior Mom and Son event in the spring and looks forward to working with volunteers.

Senior Parent Representatives: Lolo O'Keefe

Betzy and Lolo shared that the Senior Class parent group will support the Junior Ring Ceremony and looks forward to working with volunteers.

Carondelet High School Representative: Gwenn Ertoz

No updates were reported at this time as the school year had just begun.

Hospitality: Jennifer Flowers

The next event supported by the Hospitality Committee will be Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 3. A volunteer SignUpGenius will be distributed soon.

The Hospitality Committee also supports several events throughout the year, including Open House, Academic Awards Night, and Freshman Welcome Night.

Special Events

Betsy shared that this committee supports special events coordinated by Noel Hughes and may occasionally request parent volunteers for activities that show appreciation for faculty and staff.

Community Outreach: Lettie Smithwick

Betsy shared that Lettie will support this committee with upcoming community outreach events.

Crab Feed: Patricia Pon

Patricia shared that the annual Crab Feed will take place on January 30. The event requires significant volunteer support, particularly for setup and service. Volunteer recruitment and team organization will begin in September.

Dad's Club

Betsy introduced the Dad's Club as an additional opportunity for fathers and father figures to become involved and support Parent Association activities.

Miscellaneous

Betsy invited new families in attendance to introduce themselves and welcomed them to the De La Salle community.

Reminders

- The first Parent Coffee of the school year is Friday, August 21, after morning drop-off at the Countrywood Shopping Center at the corner of Bancroft Avenue and Treat Boulevard.
- Back-to-School Night is Thursday, September 3.
- There is no school on Friday, September 4.
- The next Parent Association meeting is Monday, September 14, 2026.

Closing Prayer

Valerie Wright led the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.