



**Paul Duke STEM  
PTSA General Meeting  
September 14, 2021**

**There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.**

**Minutes (Karin Susskind):** The minutes from the April General Meeting have been posted on the Paul Duke STEM PTSA website and have been emailed to the membership. Are there any corrections to the minutes? There being no corrections. Motion to pass: Nicole Syverston, Second: Brendan Sheppard. Minutes are approved as written and will be filed for audit.

**2021-22 PTSA Executive Board Election for Vice Present (Laurel Berenguer):** Elma Placeres Dieppa. Nomination approved; Elma elected as PDS PTSA Vice President

**Financial Report (Brendan Sheppard):** We had an excess of funds from 2020-21 school year. 2021-22 PDS PTSA Budget was emailed to PTSA membership for review. Any questions on budget? No questions. Budget was approved.

**Announcements (Nicole Syverston):**  
Fall Dance will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to Volunteer for different events, sign up on the PTSA website for the general volunteer list. This will allow the PTSA to notify you when events throughout the year need volunteer help. An email with this information will also be coming out soon.

**Principal Update (Dr. Wetherington):**

Current school enrollment is 1149 students. Class of 2022 will be our first graduating class to spend all 4 years at the high school. Slide with class diversity shown. We have a diverse student body creating strong culture at PDS. The 2021 graduation rate was 92%. The average SAT score for PDS was 1125. This is 200 points above the national average and 150 points above the Georgia average. We had 9 Capstone Graduates in 2021 and predict 40+ for 2022. Very high percentage of students graduating with this degree compared to peer schools.

PDS received an \$8,000 Bosh grant for Hoop House & Garden. Philip Peavy received the 2021 NEWT award for his outstanding efforts creating a culture of inclusion in education. The fine arts department won several awards for "The Making of a Ghost for Rosande"

COVID NEWS: PDS YTD cases (2 close contact, 3 confirmed cases, 0 probable cases) 0.4% total cases in student population. Norcross Cluster is at 0.5% and GCPS as a whole is at 1.75% total cases.

2022-23 GPCS School Calendar has three potential options. GPCS is looking for PTSA members to provide feedback on the best option for them and their students. Use QR code for link to survey.  
Option 1: Start August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 day phase in start, 6 digital learning days, 13 school days off for winter break, end date May 24<sup>th</sup>

Option 2: Start August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 day phase in start, 1 digital learning day (Election Day), 13 school days off for winter break, end date May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Option 3: Start August 8<sup>rd</sup>, 1 digital learning day (Election Day), 10 school days off for winter break, end date May 24<sup>th</sup>

Question: Which option is the teacher preference? Answer: Option 2, PDS already has DL days on Fridays. We are not in need of 6 more.

Mascot Designs presented by Advance Graphic Design classes. The theme appears to be a robot. Will continue to work on these designs and present for vote in a future meeting.

**Presentation of Outdoor Classroom Plaques:** PTSA members voted on options for outdoor umbrellas for outdoor classroom to provide shade until a more permanent solution can be funded. Options for umbrellas are Navy, Yellow, Silver or a mix of two. Mr. Cochran told the story of the idea for the outdoor classroom and presented the students who were integral in designing, budgeting and building the classroom. Sponsor families and contributors were also recognized.

**Drawing:** The Executive Board conducted a drawing for two PTSA members to win a Paul Duke STEM merchandise and a Chick-Fil-A gift card.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.**

**Digital Signature:** Karin Susskind