

Approved
Alice Deal Middle School
General Meeting
Minutes of October 7, 2015

Co-President Cathy House called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 pm.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The May 20, 2015 minutes were available for review. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Dan Rosenthal presented the approved 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Rosenthal detailed the budget reviewing budgeted income and expenses for the academic year. To date, the ADCA has raised approximately \$61,000 from family contributions toward an \$80,000 budgeted goal. Also noted, expenses are low at this time of year, as the year progresses expenses for school activities, educational programming and international trips will be allocated.

Mr. Rosenthal reminded attendees about company match programs which will match up to a certain amount donated to the school.

Promotions Campaign: Cathy House mentioned a new approach toward raising funds from the ADCA parent community which this fall involved online promotions only. Through this approach more funds were raised in the beginning of the year versus years past.

Upcoming Events

International Night: this event is scheduled for November 19th and the co-chairs of the event are in need of table chairs. Table Chairs are responsible for the international table featured, including decorating the table, recruiting Deal parents to cook dishes for the event, and set-up and clean-up duties.

It was also mentioned that International Night is a very popular event and can be overwhelming given the number of attendees. It was suggested that the tables or the event activities spread beyond the cafeteria room so that the flow of attendees is more manageable.

In addition, even though International Night is free so that all Deal parents and families can attend, the ADCA will accept donations toward the scholarship fund for the international trips.

High School Night: this event is scheduled for October 22 and is an opportunity for 8th graders and families to learn about their high school options.

Deal Book Fair-this event is scheduled for October 31 and November 1. A

portion of book sales are donated back to the Deal school library which usually amounts to \$1,500-\$2,500.

Holiday Green Sales: the sales of holiday trees are from December 5 & 6 and 12 & 13.

Auction Party: the biggest fundraiser event for the year is scheduled for February 6, 2016. Co President Brooke Evans mentioned the first Auction fundraiser meeting was taking place on October 8th at 7:30 pm to plan the auction and brainstorm ideas for fundraising. In past years the Auction Party organized around big ticket and smaller ticket auction items for which the Deal community could bid. Although this approach will still be used it was suggested that the group think of other ideas.

Chris Gracey the sponsorship chair mentioned restaurants in the area are interested in doing party nights such as parents date night out where a portion of funds could be contributed to Deal.

Introduction of Executive Board for 2015-2016 school year: Cathy House, Co President introduced the new Executive Board for the 2015-2016 school year. Cathy House-Co-President fifth year in the role;
Brook Evans-Co-President;
Jenny Murray-Corresponding Secretary, constant contact and website updates;
Dan Rosenthal-Treasurer;
Lori Jackson-Recording Secretary;
Blair Bunting-VP, Speakers;
Tabatha Thompson – VP, Community Outreach and Newsletter;
Laura Cloutier-VP Marketing;
Anne Hedges-VP Outreach (not present);
Chris Gracey (spelling)-Sponsorship Chair

Featured Speaker: Principal Albright was the featured speaker for the general meeting. He gave a presentation on the inside scoop on navigating three years at Deal middle school from all perspectives, teachers, students and parents. Here are some background and highlights:

Mr. Albright has served 5 years as principal, and has 15 years in education.

Alice Deal Middle School has a wonderful heritage and he sees his role to treasure the rich history of the school, and motivate the students to be eager learners.

Middle School is a unique time in student's lives; it is a time of transition and change, physically, intellectually and socially. Where their image of themselves is in constant transition, self identity is constantly being evaluated, abundant questioning and academic growth as well as how they fit into the world.

Understanding this transition, is key to how Deal is structured. Teachers at Deal are selected based on their willingness to work with the changing middle schooler, the students need to change classes and travel throughout the school during the day – they should not be static, they are able to try a variety of sports, clubs and activities to help them figure out their identity, what they like and are good at, and they are encouraged to be creative and make stuff.

Deal spends a great deal of time setting up kids to succeed in 6th grade because it sets the tone for the later years. School culture and academic expectations are clearly established.

Deal's 7th grade involves more focus on inquiry and questioning and an increase in intellectual thinking

Deal's 8th grade has a high intensity level academically, which includes larger scale projects, multi step planning and increased supports.

Throughout the three years at Deal the staff takes a growth-oriented approach, building upon skills throughout the course of middle school. Structure also matters in middle school which is why the teachers and students are in teams to continue to build culture throughout the three years.

IB Middle Years Curriculum -the school uses assessments to help students learn how to get better and where they can get real feedback. Also teachers contextualize units because middle school students need to care about what they are learning and why. All subjects at Deal are weighted the same which is why every student takes all classes every day to create well rounded individuals a key tenant of IB, and finally students will have cultural competency toward being a part of and creating a better world.

Deal Students typically attend Wilson-70%, School Without Walls-9%, and exam schools and private schools-5%.

Top Five Do's for Parents

- Listen a lot
- Ask Questions
- Model Expectations
- Love Unconditionally
- Be Consistent

Top Five Do's for Deal

- Know where your child is at all times
- Have a plan for every eventuality
- Realize there are many sides to every story
- Pick an approach, practice it, reflect on it
- Be consistent

The general meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2016.