



DESTIN HIGH SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 6:00pm Location: Destin High School

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT FOUNTAIN 6:06pm

ROLL CALL: FOUNTAIN, MCBRIDE, ONEAL, STONE, LOCICERO, PALMER, SILVER, LUTTRELL

WELCOMED GUESTS AND OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

STUDENT Lexi Ventimillia read her proposed Salutatorian speech and asked the board to reconsider directing the school administration to allow she and the Valedictorian to be named as achieving these honors and have the opportunity to speak at graduation. Said she has worked very hard for the honor and not having one was never communicated to the students or parents.

PARENT Hinze had questions for principal and board on budget and suggested additional transparency.

PARENT expressed concern over discussions of budget issues and talk about treasurer being held by teachers in classrooms and in ear shot of students, which is not appropriate.

TEACHER Mr. T. Voiced his opinion on the school climate and ear marking funds from the teacher/coach position. Shared insight on working on the DHS Spirit Award and the committee's goals. Mentioned was considering not be returning to DHS.

Mr. Noe, husband of band director, had a prepared statement, but was unable to read it due to his emotional state. Expressed thoughts on last visioning session and band funds.

PARENT Tim Ventimillia asked board to direct the school administration to keep his daughter's request as Salutatorian in mind, as this was a huge honor for their family, that she has worked very hard for all 4 years of high school and no communication of awards or changes were provided to parents until 2 weeks prior to graduation. Award has been given out at schools since the 1700's.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 11,2023 Motion by MCBRIDE, 2nd STONE Motion passed unanimously.

II. April 25,2023 Motion by STONE, 2nd by ONEAL Motion passed unanimously.

III. PROPOSED CHANGES TO AGENDA ADOPT AGENDA

ONEAL motioned to move Award Recognition up on agenda. 2nd **LOCICERO**
DICUSSION: PALMER is opposed. Motion passed: **ONEAL, STONE, SILVER, MCBRIDE, SILVER, LUTTRELL, FOUNTAIN** in favor.

III.. Reports

- **Principal Report- Mrs. Cruickshank:** See attached report

Gave Accreditation update of having approval in June 2023. Enrollment numbers are outstanding. We are officially on a waiting list. Principal and SFS will prepare trigger budgets in increments of 25, to accommodate for total enrollment numbers. Gave graduati2on plan and preparation updates. The parent graduation committee is doing an outstanding job on the event.

- **Athle2tic Director-Phil Dorn** see report

Board Question: FSHAA potential approval date needed

IV. Ac2tion Items

- Duties and responsibilities- New HR commi2ttee-purpose, goal and scope **ONEAL** to lead, would like teachers to be part of plan and reach out to local firm, Simple HR, for insight
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- Governance Committee get info from City of Destin, Chamber for insight. **PALMER** to lead.
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- ● Destin High School Foundation- **PALMER** shared to overall goal for foundation. **McBRIDE** can assist with this, cautioned that it takes time to get set up. **LARABEE and McBRIDE** to reach out to SEASIDE FOUNDATION contact to assist and guide with next steps.
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- ● The hiring of an Executive Director- job description shared by **STONE** prepared with recommendations from **School Financial Services**. Many of the schools they work with have this role and its purpose is to assist principal with running the business side of the school. The person could also possibly help manage Athletics. Job descriptions and ideal candidate skills taken from **Florida Consortium of Charter Schools** website resource and **School Financial Services** job description examples.
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- **PALMER** asked the need for another administrator and suggested an assistant principal may be the way to go.
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- **McBRIDE** said she saw the role as important for strategic planning, budget oversight, and areas that the school administration is struggling with due to lack of resources.
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- **ONEAL** said we are missing the business part of operating a school and we need that component in place to be successful.
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- **School Financial Services** added the goal would be to work toward a common goal, know the tasks at hand and get them handled. See what the principal needs support in and give it.
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- **LARABEE** suggested budget and planning time, visioning meeting, with staff and forecast the school's needs.
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- **FOUNTAIN** suggested we need to separate responsibilities.
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- **LOCICERO** said with growth in enrollment numbers, the principal needs help to run the school, campus facility oversight and business side of the school.
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- **STONE** researched and feels we need a business minded person to run the school, grow and scale, with knowledge, need volunteers to help as well. Our staff and students love our principal, so we need to keep principal handling the areas in her field of expertise such as curriculum, students, dual enrollment, community outreach.
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- **STONE** reminded that when we become recognized as an OCSD high performing school, we will pay a lower fee to the OCSD. Need a 3, 5, 10-year plan to accomplish this.
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- **PALMER** suggested some wording revisions on job listing, as that exact ideal candidate, as described, will be hard to find.
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- **STONE** motioned to advertise for the job and just see who and what we get in the applications. We can fine tune the job to fit needs, based on applicant strengths identified.
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- **ONEAL** 2nd Motion Passed.
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- ● **Vote to fill open board position- LOCICERO** reviewed 2 candidates' applications again with board.
- Motion made by **PALMER** to appoint nominee **DOUG SILLS** to board, **STONE** 2nd, Passed unanimously.
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- Vote to add **AMANDA EUBANKS** to the Board Advisory Council. Motion by **MCBRIDE**, 2nd by **STONE**, Passed unanimously.
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- **LOCICERO** to invite each to the next meeting and get paperwork emailed for **SILLS** and Governance training scheduled.

ONEAL made motion to offer the Valedictorian/Salutatorian, to be recognized at graduation and a role at graduation along with Spirit of DHS award winner.

DISCUSSION of motion

PALMER disagreed with going back and offering these 2 recognitions, since it has been discussed to not recognize, previously. Principal gave the criteria and rubric, and a teacher committee worked on criteria and the award would be the Spirit of DHS.

ONEAL said her goal was to show we are a school of excellence and there really wasn't a reason to not give the students the honor that they've worked so hard for, she also felt **PALMER** a conflict of interest on the topic, as a senior parent.

LOCICERO suggested senior parents abstain from vote, for sake of impartiality.

STONE 2nd Motion passed with **PALMER** and **FOUNTAIN** abstaining.

V. REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEES

- ● **Treasurer Report-** budget meeting minutes shared and **School Financial Services & Sarah** gave the financial report and current goals with payables. Reminded school administration to temporarily not write checks at the school level for now, without review from SFS and treasurer, until we get budget in hand and payables down. SFS is preparing 2023 school year budget projections and will present those as soon as they are ready. Waiting on several components from principal and athletics to add in.
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- ● **Grants-Triumph Grant PALMER** and committee continue to work on the application. It is an arduous amount of work and if received, Triumph will assign someone to us to oversee the grant.
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- ● **PR Marketing- LOCICERO** Graduation VIP invites have been emailed, VIP guests who require special seating, needed. Goal of giving each of the 59 seniors a scholarship is now a reality. (Seniors in attendance, asked to leave the room) **LOCICERO** announced that each Senior will receive a \$1000 college or career academy scholarship on behalf of the Governing Board and a generous family in the community. More details to follow. This will be a surprise for seniors at the awards convocation. **LOCICERO** shared that artists are still working on new renderings of school and athletic logos. Will present updates soon. **LOCICERO** still seeking a volunteer to take over the website management from the current volunteer, who retired a few

months ago. New Building Topper Ceremony date to be confirmed once principal selects date.

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- ● **Athletics-SILVER** no report
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- ● **Fundraising-STONE** we received a large donation for the school. Committee's goal is to host a large scale fundraising event, in future, to raise funds for entire school. Seeking volunteer(s) to oversee the event and coordinate it as an annual event.
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- ● **Facilities -FOUNTAIN** See report send before board meeting for current timeline and details. Seeking quotes on new facility maintenance contractor.
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- ● **Advisory Council -LARABEE** sent minutes from last BAC meeting 04/21/2023 sent to board. Once new website person starts, please add BAC members to website. She is having BAC members acknowledge their commitment and willingness to work.
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- ● **Teacher Advocate-ONEAL**- Teacher Advisory Committee meeting will now be a Teacher Focus Group. Goal is to improve communication and gather ideas from staff to board.

Outstanding Teacher Award trophy has arrived and the program will be rolled out TBD.

ONEAL revisited the Military student mobility/academic discussion from the prior board meeting and gave a copy of the national news story with each board member, which she referenced in her presentation. During her research, this was one story that helped her understand why some military transfer students do not hit the top honors, through no fault of their own. Her goal was to keep the opportunities fair for all students, especially our students of military families.

- ● **Insurance update -MCBRIDE** down to 2 quotes and working through the details with SFS, administration and vendors to get the quote.
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- ● **Construction-** Walk thru May 4th update, Next construction mee7ting May 25 3:00pm at DHS. All are invited to walk the new building.
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- ● **Governance-PALMER NONE**
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- **VI. Con7tinued Business/Discussion Items**
 - End of Year sample survey update- **ONEAL** Working on a Survey Monkey type survey to gather ideas from parents, students teachers, etc. Cognia may allow us to use a free service to save money.
- ● Award recognition topic moved up on the agenda in meeting.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEES

VIII. Public Comment

Teacher Stablier shared that she is from a family of educators and gave her thoughts on including the teachers in decisions and her hopes for budgeting and school spending. She teaches because she loves her students.

Teacher Mr. T. Shared insight on Spirit of DHS award and said it is not a popularity contest. The criteria was built on 4 pillars for the most outstanding all around students. Said he wasn't sure he would be back at DHS next school year.

PARENT RAMSWELL: Reminded the board to review the governing documents, policies and compliance. Many of the topics addressed were including in those documents by the founders of DHS. She is happy to help and assist in any way she can to keep the board moving forward in a positive direction.

PARENT JANE: Said school administration needs to delegate. She has had numerous calls to the school not returned and can't get answers from staff on items. Administration and teacher communication to parents needs improvement.

TEACHER NOE: Said with the current issue at hand, she has had to make the decision to not return to teach next school year. Felt attacked by some members of the public who attended the last meeting.

TEACHER PARKER: Shared that it is Destin's annual Week of Blessings, which is great timing and all should plan to attend. Our Senior Sharks and principal will be featured on a charter boat and will take part in the floatilla.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:40pm by PRESIDENT FOUNTAIN