

**STODDERT PTO MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2020
PTO MEMO**



President's Report - December 2020

Progress on Priorities

Growing our Community

- Room Parents are working away to celebrate Stoddert teachers and staff, coordinating closely with our Staff Appreciation Team -- especially given this year's circumstances, this has been made a big priority of ours. If you have not donated to your class funds but would still like to, reach out to your room parents!
- Speaking of our Appreciation Team - a quick update so you are all aware of what takes place behind the scenes. And as a gentle reminder, all of this is possible thanks to those who are able to pay PTO dues! Again, if you have not done so yet, there's always still time!
 - Birthdays – They have been sending birthday joy to our Stoddert Staff and specialty teachers since the beginning of the school year. The gifts are a bit smaller this year, but we continue to receive very nice thank you notes to the PTO for remembering the birthdays and helping our staff and specialty teachers celebrate their special day.
 - Holidays – They will be sending a message of holiday cheer from the PTO, along with electronic gift cards, beginning this weekend.
 - Teacher Appreciation Week – For 2021 Teacher Appreciation Week, they are planning a virtual pinboard where students can post a picture or message to share their appreciation with their Stoddert teachers and staff. More details will be provided on the pinboard in February.
- Hardy Open Houses - thanks to Alysa MacLellan who serves as our Hardy Liaison, Stoddert and Hardy are working together more than ever before. For parents who are interested in learning more, there are a few more Hardy Open Houses coming up in early 2021 on Jan 12 at 6pm, and Feb10 at 10am. We are also scheduling time with Principal Cooke in January to join us during our next PTO meeting and look to host a Q&A with Hardy Parents from Stoddert to talk about their experiences and answer additional questions.
- Our Annual Book Fair is here and it's virtual this year. Purchase Online your holiday gifts, reading lists, educational games, fun items and more, all while benefiting stoddert from all purchases proceeds. Family orders will be delivered to your home, teachers wish lists and contributions to the library can be ordered in the same order by parents and will be separately delivered to school for named teacher. All orders \$30 or above enjoy free shipping, else a standard shipping fee of \$5 per order applies. Check teacher wish lists as they are updated regularly online or purchase gift cards In

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name of your selected teacher for them to pick their preferred books. THANK YOU Maiada for getting this up and running for us this year!

- Reminder: Another great holiday gift is Stoddert Gear! You can order your gear online right from Stoddert's website. Good news is our online store is always open, so keep shopping!
- Our second Stoddert Roundtable opened up a dialogue between parents, teachers and staff. With over **40** participants, this forum allowed us to discuss some key priorities and brainstorm ideas as distance learning continues.

Beautification

- DCPS continues to work through mechanical and cosmetic work order to the building. In the meantime, after much work, building tours and preparations, Stoddert welcomed students back to the building earlier today and safely opened our CARES classroom
- We are planning on purchasing a water cooler for the janitorial staff as they work to implement enhanced sanitation protocols now that both staff and students are back in the building

Scaling Operations

- Build for Flexibility
 - We have raised **89% of our budgeted dues** revenue. \$41,300
 - We continue to work closely with the front office to identify areas where the PTO can step in and quickly support to help with any transitions as they come. We are planning over 7K in purchases this month for laptops, document cameras and subscriptions

Appreciation - All this work happens thru the help of so many volunteers. We wanted to call out a few this time around who have been working hard behind the scenes:

- Lauren and the LSAT team have been working double duty over the past month. The normal LSAT work of evaluating enrollment projections in advance of budget conversations in January began earlier than usual this year. If that weren't enough, the LSAT team led by Lauren, has also taken on the responsibilities of the Reopen Community Core or RCC, which was conceived by DCPS as a body to advise principals on reopening plans. You'll hear from Lauren and Principal Bryant a bit later on this, but we can tell you it requires many hours per week, dealing with changing expectations, limited information and a whole lot of patience and resolve to do right by Stoddert in the face of a not always cooperative DCPS bureaucracy.
- Alysa, thank you for keeping Hardy close to Stoddert

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- Maiada, for bringing us our annual book fair, providing a bit of normalcy for us all - and some good present ideas!
- Staff Appreciation Team for their ongoing work, especially this time of year!

Budget update:

The current balance in the PTO bank accounts is ~\$185,000, including more than \$41,000 in SY2020-21 dues collected to date. Since last report, we received our first quarterly disbursement from Amazon Smile (to participate, see note below), and a special donation from the Pickles DC pop-up consignment event, led by Stoddert parents Gupi Howie and Leala D'Isidoro. Thanks to our wonderful community for your generous support of the Stoddert PTO!

In addition to supporting and benefiting from the generosity of our great local businesses, Stoddert also participates in the Amazon Smile program. When you shop on Amazon.com using Stoddert's Amazon Smile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/>), Amazon automatically donates 0.5% of your purchase price to the Stoddert PTO. It's an easy way for you to support Stoddert and our PTO! If you'd like to participate, just search for and select "Benjamin Stoddert School Parent Teacher Assoc" as your charitable organization on the Amazon Smile page.

Budget status as of 12/08/2020 (QuickBooks actuals):

- **Expenses:** \$39,606.81
- **Income:** \$62,059.83

Cash balances as of 12/08/2020:

- **Wells Fargo checking:** \$95,927.89
- **Wells Fargo savings:** \$88,411.20
- **PayPal account:** \$536.40
- **Total:** \$184,875.49

Dues:

- As of 12/08/2020, we've recorded ~\$41,300 in dues income (**89% of target**)

Anticipated income (December 2020):

- Proceeds from online gear sale
- Proceeds from Arcuri pizza night

Anticipated expenses (December 2020):

- Tax accountant (\$2,050)

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- Fall stipend checks to be cashed (\$4,000 remaining)
- Technology equipment requested by Stoddert administrators (\$7,280 to be spent on 4 Dell laptops, 15 document cameras, and software subscriptions); purchasing to be coordinated by Stoddert administrators