

DAPA Meeting

December 10, 2015

Present:

Jim Sayer, Pres.

Lori Pierce, Secretary

Parents/Staff: Meg Trump, Jeff Brown, Jen Bayer, and Suzanne. Schmitz, Mike Brembeck, Mike McDermott,

Open with prayer offered by Jim Sayer at 7:07.

Jim Sayer-Referenced an online article written by a professor named "The Negative Charge-Raising Children in a Christian Environment" is a crutch, causes wars, and pollution. In certain ways the church has not been perfect. There are places where the church has dropped the ball. However, there is a positive impact to think about, in lieu of being anti-science...how it rose in the west and not in the east. Concepts of science where "Christian" and "positive" attitude affect the stewardship of the earth. Christianity is responsible for higher education. The university movement and the quest for knowledge came due to Christianity. One hundred of the first universities were for propagating the Christian religion. Christianity among everyone, girls as well. At first, it was only boys that were educated. It was the Christians who said it was necessary to educate girls as well. There is a Christian influence on the arts. A salt to world...in prison reform and labor reform. Harriet Beacher Stowe was the daughter of a preacher, married to a preacher and she wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Christians sought out the "tying to the Christian education." Passing on not just a faith tradition, but salt and light to the world.

- The DA T-shirts fundraiser to purchase the "Gaga" field. Profit of \$463.00. **Another order will be forthcoming for those who missed the first opportunity.** Approval has been made for student to wear the T-shirt at school on Friday's in lieu of uniform

"Gaga" pit-build ourselves in lieu of buying to save money and can be covered by the T-shirt profit. Otherwise, there was not enough money raised for this project.

Additional Needs (Wants)-fencing for the back lot, white boards
(maybe)

Topics for next meeting: Senior Wall (bring to the attention of the seniors so they know to decorate the wall for their class)

- Short report on Stratford: “The Sound of Music” was amazing. This event was a life altering moment for the students. “The Taming of the Shrew” in which many liked the fight scene. It was a good trip and good time for all. The boys had a competition...Paul Bunyan breakfast Stephan Greenwald won by eating his breakfast in just over 10 minutes. Encourage students to go.

Guest Speaker-Dss. Caldwell

Jim offered that DAPA wants to be a blessing to the school and foster understanding. The September DAPA meeting was treated with a great visit/talk session with Fr. & Mrs. Mac.

Q: What was it that brought you to DA?

Dss. Caldwell was part of a book club with Mrs. Mac for 20 some years. Mrs. Mac wanted her to come and teach when they started the school. At that time, she was already teaching in a business college-real estate classes. Why would I want to teach children? She was one of the people to develop the church. She was the Realtor that helped them through the process of buying the building. And her sister had children who would ultimately come to DA for various reasons. Her nephews came to DA as it started up. And her friend's children came as well. There were three-9, 11, and 13, so she began teaching here very part-time in 1999. Then real estate went through a crisis and she made the comment about the need for a part-time job...hence her entry into DA as a staff member. She first came on board in 2010 as part time head of school so Mrs. Willman could fundraise for building compliance monies. With “DA,” it is in your blood.

Q: What are your fondest memories?

Every graduation is very special whether the student has been at DA for 3 or 5 years. Families’ are unique. It's a family of families. Look at the diversity of people when they come together here and provide a Christian education. There is a deposit with the kids that come here. It’s amazing that we still make this work. There is so much hope for the kids, teachers model their faith, and they learn to be a part of the universal church. DA is a good thing to contribute to. DA still has teachers praying for your kids even when they have left.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenges?

My personal challenge is having my hands in too many pies.

It was a real positive moving her classroom down to the main level next to the office.

It is my hope that someday the school will have a fulltime administrator.

Embracing the transition to the charter. Perception of the difficulty. (*Those present offered up their years with DA.*) When the new people come in via the chartering we want to impart our culture—Christian worldview and a family of

families kind of environment, a commitment to hard work and excellence in academics and a Christ like respect for one another. We don't want to bring in an antagonist competitive or negative culture (don't want a dog-eat-dog or secular culture). Feb 1st deadline for chartering. Validation for 2016/2017-first-charter school year.

One of the troubles of the charter process has been the expenses that weren't known at the beginning. Extra Expenditures included the purchasing of a 3x5 foot American flag for the gallery. And her purchase of small flags for each classroom. These cost well over \$200.00.

Insecurity-not to grow too fast. Gain-pay, number of students in the classroom. Prep-school and High school are at \$3.00 per class. We hope to award bonuses in the future. The teachers having a low wage and also paying for their own health benefits. Be able to keep teachers even when their children have gone on. With the increase of funding from the Dayton Public Schools auxiliary monies can be used for computers, software, textbooks, etc. Students have been doing a great job...cleaning, everybody picks a chore for the next inspection. More consistent classes. Attract young teachers that students identify with.

We will have a Compliance Officer to help us keep our ducks in a row with the state. The Compliance Officer would be an employee of the state. We are a "private charter school" (not a public charter), so there will be things that we don't have to comply with that public charters do. Students will qualify if they are in a failing school in a failing school district. And it can also be based on income level.

Q: Charters have been in the spotlight due to mismanagement. There have been schools receiving funding that shouldn't have. The Ohio Checkbook.

We are not a wasteful school. Watch the money, biggest expense is the salary. Locally, small private schools have gone under while DA has continued because of the way we pay the teachers. The charter enables us to have fuller classes, keep teachers longer, and open up more classes.

Q: With more students-more space is a concern. What is DA doing?

We are looking at property near us for expansion space for modules.

Because we are seeking to charter, there will be an open enrollment period for current full and part time students from Jan 4-28, 2016. Do so before open application starts in Feb 2016. Also, we will start testing (English and math) of new students. We are not equipped to help special needs. Don't have the ability to help in these cases. Standardized or a DA test...Dss. Caldwell-Iowa's. We will continue to use Iowa's for now. But the state is working on using ACT/SAT scores too.

Jim S.-Charters not performing via Dayton Daily News...

Q: What are three things that parents can pray for you and three things to pray for the school?

Dss. C. - Finish her dissertation (two year).

DA- praying for this transition. That we would be wise and committed to doing this the right way. Vouchers will not be for part-timers, only full-time students. How this will affect the culture of the school when bringing in the new students. Pray for the teachers. Communication. Unforeseen expenses.

We will be adding Kindergarten with six students in the morning and six in the afternoon.

Other Info: Some misc. expenses up front, \$1200- for running an ad in the Beavercreek, Dayton Daily News and Fairborn papers which was State required.

Certification of teachers \$200.00ea. + Background check @ 67.00ea.

Instituted price increase-\$6000.00 for High School and prep school, why take less for the current...

Did not change Jr. high, but prep & High school 4-5%. Compared to Dayton Christian and other private Christian schools...we are inline.

Thanked Dss Caldwell and expressed appreciation for her time.

Jim closed with prayer at 9:04.