

**Alice Deal Middle School
ADCA General Meeting
Minutes of September 27, 2017**

President Lori Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. She welcomed attendees and introduced ADCA board members. Those present included communications co-chairs Jenny Murray and Tracey Thomas, community events chair Candace Smyth, co-treasurers Deidra Barksdale and Jenny Backus and co-VPs for Fundraising and Events Leonie Stephenson and Lisa Wackler.

1. **Minutes for May 2017.** The May 2017 Minutes were available for review and approval. The President moved to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **Community Events.** Lori Jackson and Candace Smyth reported on community and theatre arts events. These included various summer events for teachers, barbecues for each grade, and upcoming movie night on Friday, October 13th. The movie will be selected by Principal Neal and will be shown outdoors. Attendance at last year's movie night was approximately 250. This year will also include a variety of theater arts community events. In particular, there will be three productions with three separate directors and choreographers, as opposed to a single director for all productions in recent years. A Shakespearean production is currently scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, the 7th/8th grade musical is scheduled for April 2018, and a 6th grade musical is scheduled for June 2018. There will be an arts program within the ADCA budget.
3. **Fundraising Report.** Leonie Stephenson and Lisa Wackler reported on fundraising events. They provided updates on a fundraiser which supports Deal's library scheduled for October 28th and 29th at Politics and Prose and informed attendees that there were still opportunities for volunteers to sign up to work at the event, Farleigh Earhart co chair of the event was in the room to accept volunteers. Another upcoming event is "International Night" scheduled for November 15th. The ADCA is looking for monetary support as well as in-kind donations of food. The chairs for this event are Shandra Pruitt and Tabatha McNeal. In December the ADCA plans to hold a "green sale" over two weekends, selling trees and wreaths. The ADCA Annual Gala is scheduled for February 10, 2018. It is traditionally the ADCA's biggest event, and needs co-chairs to help with planning and execution. The ADCA also plans a mulch sale for Spring 2018.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Diedra Barksdale and Jenny Backus presented the latest budget. They distributed a P&L sheet covering last year and year-to-date 2017 and indicated that the ADCA's finances would be published online. The treasurers reported the ADCA has raised about \$60,000 in annual donations – about half of the annual goal. The balance of the ADCA checking account was presently \$56,538. The money market account is used primarily to segregate funds dedicated to specific tasks or projects. These include \$23,179 for the Albright travel scholarship, and \$998 to pay for the transportation of a shipping container containing donations to a Houston school affected by the recent hurricane. The ADCA began fundraising this school year earlier than usual in July, and requires a substantial sum of money to be left over at the end of the school year to cover expenditures during the summer break. Part of the success in reaching half of the annual goal by September and being 70% ahead of last year resulted from increasing the suggested family

donation to \$200. Sales of Alice Deal gear from July to September 27 grossed \$8995. Other funds came from renting sports fees, fundraising for hurricane relief in Houston, and \$1,100 from a pig roast.

- a. They gave examples of significant expenditures over the summer, including money spent on teacher training, \$2681 for cleaning microscopes over the summer, \$4,500 on a Chinese language curriculum, \$7,000 on Agenda books, \$10,000 for an I-ready license, material for the 7th and 8th grade barbeques.
- b. One attendee inquired about the apparent \$96,000 deficit in 2016. The treasurers reported that this was part of a deliberate strategy to spend some of a perennial surplus.

5. **Principal's Report.** The fifth order of business was the Principal's report, provided by Ms. Neal. She began by noting that she has worked at Alice Deal for 10 years and that this year was off to a great start. She noted that there was some dissatisfaction among Alice Deal teachers last year, leading some to depart for other schools within the DCPS system, which was unusual. She indicated that many were seeking a better "work-life balance" and asked the ADCA to be supportive of teachers. Principal Neal also noted that Alice Deal was educating 1/3 of all the middle school students in DCPS, and that Chancellor Wilson has visited the school this school year. Among improvements she sought was a new cottage, preferably one with two stories, and a security guard in light of the school's large footprint. She also noted that the school would continue with a variety of programs including Empowering Males of Color.

There were no additional questions, and the meeting then shifted to a presentation by guest speaker Paige Trevor of Parent Encouragement Program. PEP, a local nonprofit established in 1982, teaches parenting classes to over 4,000 parents and caregivers a year. The presentation was entitled, The Challenges of Adolescents, and provided key tips on how to talk to and engage with a tween/teen in order to teach them life skills.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes approved January 17, 2018.