

## **Van Hise Elementary PTO Meeting minutes 12/3/2013 6:30-8:00pm**

### **In Attendance:**

6 parents,  
6 staff (Principal Keeler, Ms. Riecke, Mrs. Cantwell, Mrs. Mahr, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Ostertag),  
6 PTO members: Jen Roth, Carousel Bayrd, Sarah Van Riet, Shelby Connell, Susie Anderson, Dana McCloskey

**Review Minutes:** Shelby passed out minutes. Sarah moved to approve w/any changes/edits from group tonight. Ellen seconds. Motion passes 12 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Principal's Report (Peg Keeler):** Smooth going right now. Behavior referrals are low, good work being done in school, many SIP goals already achieved, will continue to work to improve.

Susie asks what SIP focus is?

Peg's Answer: SIP is online @ <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/sips-all-schools>. VHE goals are in reading proficiency and growth (overall and focus target groups) . Of course math is important also but focus of this year's SIP on reading. Parents can click on 'family friendly' summary of SIP (less jargon). Will also be translated to Spanish.

PBS looking at interventions when 5 or more referrals for behavior, will intervene w/the child.

### **Event Summary (Shelby):**

- REAP: made about same profit as last year. Order pick up is Sunday 1:45-3:30pm
- Scholastic Book Fair: made 2100 scholastic dollars and ~450 books purchased for kids in need. PTO will give 250 scholastic dollars to Carnival committee for prizes. PTO board will divide remaining scholastic dollars among teachers/staff for classroom use.
- A Stone's Throw Event: \$150 from owner (>15% of sales). Low turnout to shop. Give thank you in newsletter and FB
- SERRV all sales this Saturday 10% will go to VHE
- Fine Earth Gallery 12/14 make earrings or buy pottery, etc. Proceeds will go to fall 2014 visiting artist.
- Thursday 12/5 LMC Media Education discussion
- After winter break: dance (red carpet/paparazzi) and February Carnival.
- Beth Cantwell notes will have Art Fair committee meetings start soon- Shelby will gather list of helpers from last year. Anyone interested, contact Shelby or Beth.

**Treasurer's Report (Dana/Shelby):** Income \$24,000. All on track. Fall fund was just a tad over goal with last few checks. Expenses \$8,000 on track w/budget. Teacher grants \$6,700 approved. Still some surplus funds which may be used for technology.

Question about Box Tops- \$1500 will come to us. As before, the box top money will go to specials, mentor program, PBS, and some for a sign for clay mural. Any more box top money this year will go to visiting artist. Parent asks why not put some surplus funds in CD to earn interest? Dana investigated this last year and board decided not worth it, interest rate too low.

### **Technology Meeting District Update (Jolynne and Afan, parents):**

Jolynne and Afan both attended parent input session for technology. Parents were asked what they would envision in model classroom.

Emerging themes:

- 1) increased teacher support/training for tech use
- 2) different tech levels different ages
- 3) move away from teacher in front of group (toward children working together)
- 4) using tech as a tool, tech "invisible" in classroom but being used often

School district planning to budget and make a 5 year plan for technology in schools. Parents can still go to <https://techsvcweb.madison.k12.wi.us/techplan> to give input on the plan. District goal is to approve tech plan by end of January 2014.

Peg comments: Hard to know how to proceed with PTO funds- wait for district plan or invest in tech now? There is also a large \$20,000 grant request a few VHE teachers working on for Promethean boards.

Shelby adds that PTO goal last year was to fund 6 full presentation carts for school and not quite there yet. Falk did give us 2 carts (minus laptops).

To be continued- Afan will be representative on MMSD tech steering committee, Susie may learn more at Parent Advisory board also.

**Parent Advisory Board (Susie):** Superintendent Cheatham ran meeting and will be asking advisory board parents for guidance/feedback on how district plan is succeeding or failing in various communities. Susie suggested that as schools have posted SIP, it would be important for district to also indicate how it will support schools in reaching SIP goals.

Parent engagement is another area- how to reach parents on fringe. How to help parents feel equipped to engage with school, etc. Susie will continue to report after these board meetings.

**PTO room parents & Carnival (Carousel):** Could room parents help organize baskets to be raffled or auctioned at carnival? Group had long discussion about raffle and silent auction, (what has been done in past, ideas to improve, what other schools do, etc). Group is in favor of this idea. (no one voiced opposition). Carousel will send note to teachers and room parents to start this. Hope to have classes work on these after break.

**Communication survey (Shelby & Jolynne):** Parents were sent online survey asking mainly who uses website? what do parents want on website? changes in newsletter? is newsletter being read?

Jolynne states results: 95% of responses were from those already on email list of PTO. High interest in teacher/class pages. District already has websites for classrooms and Peg wants systematic way for all to have website. Long discussion among whole group on whether we help

teachers make sites on PTO web vs asking teachers to contribute to a PTO website? PTO Website history- a parent did it >5 yr ago and never was used. Shelby started adding posts in past few years, still low traffic. Ideas proposed:

-interactive calendar? brainstorming how to make this work

-classroom spotlight each month?

-Peg suggests committee for communication to continue this discussion

Will move ahead with a committee- Peg, will select teachers, Jolynne, Kristen, Susie volunteer to help.

Shelby also notes feedback from parents on Newsletter - it is from SCHOOL but PTO rep Kim Mahoney writes it. Now electronic this year, much better timing and ease of distributing. Will need someone to take over writing/formatting newsletter next year. Contact Shelby if interested. Shelby notes entire newsletter not translated --would it make sense for email version to be all English and have a separate paper Spanish version for families who request? Discussion - Peg will add this to communications committee dialog. Will bring in school based leadership team also. [This topic tabled until communications committee can meet.]

### **School board meeting (Shelby):**

School board met Monday, 11/25/13. Shelby attended to hear CAPACITY report (minutes will be posted here <https://boeweb.madison.k12.wi.us/minutes/regular/>)

Concerns about capacity report presented:

Report doesn't consider neighborhood turnover, numbers are based on birth rates, etc. and appear to not factor in other significant data. District projecting VHE currently at 99% capacity (last year was >100%?). The report says VHE will be at 90% capacity in 5 yrs. Doesn't make sense based on feel of the school (crowded), neighborhood growth with young families moving in, older couples moving out, and Mrs. Keeler states district building employee told her VHE was at 133% capacity last year.

Mrs. Keeler voiced concern to board that shared rooms not being considered.

Discussion continued regarding fire code (we are overcrowded according to these numbers), capacity calculations, whether state has changed some class size standards. Have Sage standards changed?

Shelby states one BOE rep asked Andrew Statz what can concerned parents do? Andrew asked parents to "wait and read report in March." Group discussed do we wait vs. ask for more detail behind the data. Decision: Shortly after winter break, a small group get together and draft a letter (collaborate with Hamilton), with a map showing space use, etc. Will send this to board, and district. Shelby will jot down some main ideas, staff can add ideas, ask a realtor for input also. One main question is where did Andrew Statz get the numbers for this report and why does it conflict with numbers given to our principal last year?

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY JANUARY 7, 6:30PM**