

VHE PTO Board Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

JANUARY 15, 2013

6:30PM

VAN HISE ELEMENTARY

MEETING CALLED BY	PTO President Shelby Connell
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Agenda topics

6:30PM PRESENTATION

60 MINUTES

INTERNET SAFETY

AMY KURKA

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Kurka walked us through a power point presentation on internet safety. The presentation shared how technology is used by children today, what you can do as parents, safety and etiquette online, and recommended books/websites for further information.

The Van Hise Elementary Library Page URL is:
<http://madison.campusguides.com/content.php?pid=399569>

Mrs. Kurka also walked parents through the library web page. She shared the WONDERFUL resources that are there for our children. Take a look and get your child to check it out too but remember to limit their time in front of the screen!

SCHOOL'S OVERALL SAFETY

PEG KEELER

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Keeler shared information about her upcoming 'coffee talk' sessions to review the policies and procedures to ensure all children are safe at VH. These sessions will take place on Friday, February 2nd and Friday, February 8th from 9am-9:45am in the VHE Art room. Mrs. Keeler also opened up a discussion of the safety of our school and welcomed feedback from parents. Several parents shared their concerns.

1. Feeling the school secretary was really not able to monitor who is coming into the school because she can't get up and inquire about the nature of a person's business at the school if she does not recognize them via the buzzer/camera security. Are additional resources available to have this be their sole responsibility?

2. Do children know where to go if they leave the school? Mrs. Keeler shared that all the children know that they will stay with their respective teachers and they have designated places to go. She also shared that in the event of a school evacuation all of the children are taken to the Covenant Presbyterian Church on the corner of Segoe and Mineral Point Rd.

3. Mrs. Keeler reported that she just found out that Hamilton Middle school has been assigned a security office who will also assist us in the event of an emergency. She was unsure if this person will be armed.

4. One parent shared his belief that parents to take action and demand further response from our community.

Mrs. Keeler listened and responded. She talked about the balance they are always trying to maintain between safety and being a welcoming public school. Dialogue to continue.

7:30PM BUSINESS MEETING

5 MINUTES

CARNIVAL UPDATE

JULIA STEIN

UPDATE

Julia shared the date for the upcoming carnival, Friday, February 15th and the need for more volunteers for the success of the event. She encouraged parents to watch for the flyer that just came home and to return it with information as to how they can help.

10 MINUTES

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

PEG KEELER

DISCUSSION

- Mrs. Keeler reported that the school will be adopting a new K-5 curriculum called Mondo. There will be new materials and she is excited about it.

- Mrs. Keeler reported that the school received a grant from the Madison Schools Foundation for a few hundred dollars. The grant will be used at the Lunar Year Event on February 8th from 6-8:30pm. The event will host an artist in residence, Gary Erickson, who will share his experience in Jingdezhen, China and help students create a Chinese clay medallion and other activities. Parents received a hand out to report their interest in the event and how they might be able to help.

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shelby reported on the outcome of the Scholastic Book Fair and that there were still approximately \$4,000 of scholastic dollars in the account. The majority of the funds will be divided up between the teachers so they may purchase materials for their respective classrooms. - Shelby reported on the Hedgeie gear sale. We made a profit of \$575. - Shelby reported on the Fundraising Pop Up Event at Serrv (the store on Monroe Street). Serrv had their best day of sales in their history and the PTO received a donation of \$645! - Shelby reported that the PTO has organized a Great Dane fundraising evening for Monday, March 4th. - Shelby shared that the yearbook this year would cost less this year (\$10). - Shelby also shared that because the PTO has changed its fundraising from sales based events to soliciting donations from parents and other organizations that we are going to work hard to keep the costs of events/merchandise low or free. The board feels these events and school merchandise are important to the overall school spirit and community building events and we do not want to view them as fundraising events. - Shelby reminded parents of the up and coming Winter Dance on Friday, January 25th from 6-8 pm in the school gym. The event is free and there will be games, music and snacks. - Shelby reported on the return of Science Night on April 9th.
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DISCUSSION	<p>Shelby reported on the proposed changes in the bylaws in regard to the language regarding how long a PTO board member can hold a position. Currently a board member can only hold a position for two years but the reality is that there are not enough parents stepping up to take over positions so we will alter the bylaws to allow the board to approve an extension for a board member to serve longer than two years.</p>
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NEXT MEETING	NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 – TAG discussion
LOCATION	Cafeteria
TIME	6:30PM