

## **Van Hise Elementary PTO Meeting minutes 1/14/14 6:30-8:00pm**

### **In Attendance:**

7 parents,  
1 staff (Principal Keeler),  
5 PTO members: Jen Roth, 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 13 in favor, 0 opposed.

### **Principal's Report (Peg Keeler):**

- Friends of Lake Wingra had a grant for school watershed/rain gardens and Mary Michaud and Bernie wrote up a grant proposal and we got it! \$1100 granted for interpretive sign for current rain garden plus a Japanese style bridge to go over current rain garden.
- For family involvement, our school has strength here, on 2/7/14 will have "Read Your Heart Out". 15 schools in Madison will participate. To honor and recognize African American family involvement. Teachers will be sharing more information closer to the date. Will PTO sponsor rides for families who need them to this event? Yes-Ms Osgood has ability to arrange these and PTO covers the bill.
- Note that many traditional holidays are being deemphasized in lieu of encouraging kindness, encouragement, etc. In relation to this, school will ask parents to please not send Valentines to school.
- Capacity reports from district- variation from 2011-2013. District views "capacity" different than "space." Peg has meeting coming up with high level administrators to help clarify why we feel crowded although district says not at full capacity.
- Safe routes to school committee looking at space, capacity, and safety and wish list for school. Want to add double wide sidewalk on Segoe side to avoid cut through parking lot. Want sidewalk on Waukesha side driveway/parking lot. Wish for better buzz/entry on Segoe side. Wish for dedicated middle school entry on Segoe side. These are all "retro fits" and in reality hoping for bigger structural building changes eventually.
- Other notes on space challenges include no extra classroom space available next year even though we will need this next fall. PTO Board w/Chris Frakes wrote a letter from Board listing current situation and questions we would like clarified regarding capacity report district wrote fall 2013.
- Working on better signage for Van Hise on entrances and internally. Peg may ask PTO for funding assistance for this if needed.

**Capacity Letter:(Shelby)** Letter written re: capacity for BOE and administrators. Who should sign? Board or Board plus classroom parents? Agree that board members sufficient. Discussion on building capacity, what space vs capacity means, how is room 100 counted as 2 classrooms? Hoping these questions will be answered in next few months.

**Treasurer's Report (Dana/Shelby):** Very little to report, paper budget reviewed. No questions.

**Parent asks question about more after school classes this spring?** Shelby states yes, but mostly for grade 2-5.

### **Event Update (Shelby)**

- Science night-- same committee, meeting in 2 weeks and will ask for helpers as needed.
- SERRV -- estimate \$440 raised
- CARNIVAL-- Julia couldn't come due to work- Carnival 2/28/14 5:30-8:00pm. If interested in joining Carnival Committee, talk to Julia Stein-Barnes. Main areas that may need support will be Prizes. Gymnastic equipment will be in 1/2 the gym. Last year calculated 120 "shifts" needed to man the carnival. Last year had some high school and middle school students to help.
- Baskets from classrooms: Most will be auction items. Questions from class reps about how to help facilitate this. Kirsten said she chose a theme and just sent sign up genius to ask parents to contribute.

So far themes chosen are garden, rainy day, art/craft,  
other ideas: choc, movies, games, breakfast, Badgers

Deadline? Each class can set goal as long as basket ready on the day.

Classroom baskets will take pressure off Dana and Carousel to get so many prizes.

- Blackbird Yoga will donate 25% of new purchases to VHE this week.
- Great Dane- need a date
- School Supply - Staples sister company has an option for kits- Shelby will get a quote.
- School Dance- there will be a photographer who is donating time and photos and may be option to purchase photo from dance "red carpet"
- Any event topics suggestions? Maybe discuss capacity in March? Various ideas/concerns were brought up regarding space issues, etc.

### **Technology Meeting District Update (Afan Ottenheimer):**

Afan continues to sit on technology committee as a parent rep. It appears that the draft proposal is suggesting that all students (even Kindergarteners) have a tablet within 5 yrs. Is this a good use of budget? Lively discussion tonight about how would this be used, how does it improve a K/1 student learning by having access to tablet? Does research really support this? What is cost? Would VHE really get a computer lab? **Encourage all parents to go to web site and review the proposal and then comment [www.mmsd.org/techplan](http://www.mmsd.org/techplan) before Thursday this week if possible.**

Next meeting: February 11, 2014 6:30pm