

VHE PTO Meeting - called by Shelby Connell, PTO president - 5/14/2013 - 6:30pm  
Present: Principal Keeler, 6 parents, 2 teachers, & Board members: Shelby Connell, Jen Roth, Carousel Bayrd, Susie Anderson, Sarah Van Riet

### **LITERACY CURRICULUM UPDATE**

Questions from last meeting that hope to answer tonight:

1. How does the value of differentiation continue with so much emphasis on grade levels?
2. Why spend effort on kids above grade level when some kids still not meeting grade level standards? (quick answer- at VHE we focus on ALL kids and meet them where they are)
3. Will all students be "leveled"- what if child meets benchmarks - will that be "enough" and they won't get more beyond grade level? (quick answer- no, students will be challenged at their level)

Laurie Stehle and Mrs. Keeler present new Mondo reading materials to support Balanced Literacy.

Each teacher has a "literacy block" of time each day that is 60-90 minutes total. THIS FORMAT WILL NOT CHANGE with Mondo material use.

LITERACY BLOCK- 60-90 minutes daily

- 10-15 min. shared mini-lesson w/teaching focus (e.g. how to skim) whole group using mentor text
- 15-30 min guided groups- use book room books, teacher + 3-6 students grouped based on assessed reading level (other students have independent work during this time, listen to book, read to self, read to friend, etc)
- 10 min closure, share thoughts, recap teaching focus
- 30-40 minutes writer's workshop

Mondo materials simply offer books to supplement what is already in our book room and offers a great selection of non-fiction(more than we had before). Research shows that children need exposure to about 50% fiction and 50% non-fiction as develop literacy.

Mondo also has guides with teaching points- making teaching more consistent across district. Their materials are also updated/more current.

Mondo also has a NEW oral language component for all K-2 grades which fits in with common core standards. Teachers will perform individual "interviews" with child and have child repeat back word for word sentences. Child who struggles will get additional oral language group work to build this skill. Learning to read is complex and oral skills are very important. Oral skills have been addressed in past but Mondo provides a more formal uniform approach.

Important to note that teachers are not "teaching Mondo" now- simply using Mondo reading materials as a part of literacy curriculum.

Reading groups will continue to meet about 2 times per week per child. Generally the Mondo books will not go home with child- limited copies- but child will likely bring books home that he/she should be able to read with ease. Child will work on more challenging texts at school w/teacher.

Reading levels on Mondo materials indicated by letter A-Z (versus current 1-30 levels). Letter U corresponds to about level 30 now, so Mondo levels V-Z offer more advanced reading levels beyond what we have now.

One parent asked if materials such as the Mondo books could replace Scholastic book fair- better quality. Not likely this coming year, but Susie Anderson volunteers to look into this further.

Parent suggests/requests another meeting similar to this one in fall - Mrs. Keeler is agreeable to this.

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

Next year's Board up for vote:

President: Shelby Connell

Vice President: Carousel Bayrd

Treasurer: Dana McCloskey

Secretary: Sarah Van Riet

At Large Members: Susie Anderson, Heidi Weitzman, Jennifer Roth

Tara motions to approve board members for next year, Ellen seconds. Vote 100% in favor. Motion approved.

Budget/Events:

- Craft fair- success and will do next year
- Cookbook has broken even so far and we have books yet to sell this year and next
- Ice cream social- June 3, what is best time? Discussed and group decides on 5:30-6:30. Sassy Cow ice cream this year. Families welcome to bring a blanket and picnic dinner as well.
- 2013-2014 CALENDAR:
  - Open house
  - Oct Noodles Night
  - Nov Scholastic Book fair
  - Dec SERRV fund raiser
  - Jan Dance
  - Feb Carnival (end of the month this year)
  - Mar Multi-Cultural night
  - Apr Science Night
  - Art Fair April 26 2014

- Jun Ice cream social- keep and add option of bringing own picnic as well

Should Talent show continue? Since schedule is so full and Mrs. Keeler does an informal talent show on Fridays at lunch, all present agree to not host separate evening talent show again next year.

Idea for a fall "open house" the week before school starts- meet other families, teachers, etc. Maybe have food carts come and families can mingle and buy dinner? Will consider for future.

Budget update:

- Time For Kids- PTO will give up to \$1000 and Mrs. Keeler will use budget for rest
- Technology- ordered 20 iPads and 3 light boxes from PTO
- Book Binding machine- current is very old, staff would like new one. Shelby looked at prices and it seems reasonable. Discussion had on manual versus version with an automatic feature. Teachers agree manual version fine. Shelby motions to have PTO purchase manual book binding machine for school. Seconded by Tara Pabellon. Motion passed 100% in favor.

Healthy Snack Program

- Shelby suggests PTO donate \$1000/year to keep this program going. It was very well received by kids and very positive.
- Some parents still have not received funds back for money they spent on food this year- Mrs. Keeler will follow up on that w/administration as the grant funds are there.
- Discussion was had about how to make it work- cannot be as labor intensive as it was this year, who will organize it, could we partner with a grocer or farmer?
- Will table for now- discuss again actively in fall. Chris Frakes and Sarah Van Riet are willing to do some help but neither able to take full responsibility to organize program.

Next meeting: June 4 6:30pm