

Van Hise Elementary PTO Meeting minutes 11/5/2013 6:30-8:00pm

In Attendance: 9 parents, 4 staff (Principal and 3 teachers),

PTO members: Jen Roth, Carousel Bayrd, Sarah Van Riet, Shelby Connell, Susie Anderson

6:30pm Meeting is called to order by Shelby Connell, PTO President

Review minutes Shelby shares copy of October meeting minutes which will be passed around the table for review. Ellen motions to pass minutes with any edits. Kristen seconds. All in favor 12, none opposed

Principal's Report (Mrs. Keeler) Principal Keeler solicits any questions from group.

Ques: Where is school forest? Ans: Great piece of land our district owns near Verona. More can be found at https://envedweb.madison.k12.wi.us/school_forest

Ques: Did we win WOW challenge (walk or wheel)? Ans: Don't know yet. But Mrs. Cantwell notes that at Tri 4 kids event VHE got second place for attendance out of 90 schools total. Tri 4 Kids will give \$1500 straight to our PE dept.

Ques: MAPS test results in yet? Ans: Maps test results for 3-5 graders will come home this week. Teachers will explain results during conferences

Ques: What happened with DEMCO adopting our school? Ans: CEO came for principal for a day and he did offer some free supplies (some were great and others less so like plastic erasers that were shared with other schools). The company already is partnered with another school so can't promise definite help but did offer to do a rendering of library for us with ideas for better use of space, etc.

Ques if veg option for hot lunch? Not daily- can ask Steve who is in charge of food service for MMSD

Other notes from Principal Keeler:

Fall is assessment time with WKCE testing which shows growth in learning. WI state report card uses this data also to reflect school "grade." Peg notes that more families are opting out of WKCE for various reasons and this does have negative impact on the school. These tests are one assessment out of many that are used with children. Next year WKCE will be replace by a test called Smarter Balanced Testing and will be done on line with more responses and time spent with a problem

Event Updates (Shelby Connell)

Book fair. Next week. Still need evening help for sales

Stones throw fund raiser. Women's clothing store 15% if you mention van Hise on sat nov 9-10

Serrv fund raiser also coming

12/13 k/1 babysit night 60 signed up so far

Noodles night made \$721

After school classes going well. Two more "rounds" of these classes. Raised ~ \$5000 already

Adult class ideas welcome

REAP deadline approaching for orders.

Carnival --the two leads will be done in 2015. Anyone who might take it on let Shelby or Julia Stein Barnes know. Carnival usually brings in \$3000 or more.

Schools of Hope (Alexis Vargas)

Americorps Schools of Hope program has been at Van Hise three years. Program coordinates volunteer tutors for children identified by teachers that would benefit from one-on-one (or one tutor with 2 children) tutoring about once a week.

They also run another program that provides math and literacy kits to take home and encourage reading at home. This program is for about 25 children per year.

Tutors may be neighbors or anyone in community who are screened and volunteer time. The sessions are held in classroom to not disrupt child's day, and times are scheduled during usual class literacy or math blocks of independent work time.

Garden updates (Sarah Van Riet)

*we have successfully recruited more classroom garden parents

*Garden club was success, new sign by rain garden looks great

*going to brighten up the sign with some 4/5 students and add rain garden info

*Nearly every class has been active in garden this fall

*Mrs. Koval did "harvesting the heart" activity last week engaging kids in exercise/being active in garden, hauling compost, cleaning up the garden and putting it to bed

*Chris Frakes surveyed teachers about using wooden platform as a stage. A few parents may work with Peg to spruce that up so classes can do small plays or performances there.

Regarding Garden, Peg also notes: Another grant from Foundation for Madison Public schools is hopefully coming to VHE. Peg wants to use this for adding cultural feature to garden. She has a group working on this and will ask for input from families. Remember parents need to go through Peg and Custodian before build anything or add to garden. Shelby notes that garden club has about \$3000 budget.

Backyard bites (Chris Frakes)

New name this year following idea from last year's snack program. The group has done two snacks already and more to come from partner CSA (carrots, salad turnips, cabbage, etc).

Children were excited and enjoyed the snacks provided so far. Extra parent help always appreciated. Approximately 5 times a year will provide all-school healthy snacks: Prep is

Monday night and serve on Tuesday. Got new equip with \$250 funds from Hill farm neighborhood. To help contact Chris at chrisfrakes5@gmail.com.

Artist in residence (Beth Cantwell)

Mosaic artist will be hired to make a mural for school. Will be placed either on wall outside or inside the school. She will work on a plan with kids next spring -something that reflects our garden space. Kids will make the mosaic in art class probably next fall. Will cost minimum \$10000. Same price as clay stomp cost 5 yr ago. Beth notes that this is a large sum and reminds us that all the money goes to this project, not to the school art program. This artist has done similar projects in other schools that are amazing.

Shelby notes that PTO plans to support this project by offering all of this year's Box top money and also some of after school class funds raised. She expects PTO will be able to fund about

\$5000 of the project. Beth Cantwell will start to fundraise directly starting spring.

Budget notes (Shelby Connell in Dana's absence)

Funds look good but also have lot of expenses outstanding.

Grant requests went out again to teachers for second year and got bigger response. Shelby and PTO board reviewed requests and Shelby sat down with Peg last week to discuss the requests as well. Decisions are to offer funding as follows:

1. \$300 for supplemental materials for mondo advanced learners
2. Supply Teresa Hyman with some containers for books that need organizing.
3. Microphone for 4/5s
4. Sensory integration replace supplies
5. Interactive whiteboard light boxes and presentation carts-- want one per grade. Classrooms need whiteboards as well. About 9 needed. Plan to purchase two doc cameras so each team will have a system to use. Also Falk has some full presentation carts including projection cameras to give to us- free- since they upgraded to smart boards.
6. Nanos will be purchased as requested for listening stations in kindergarten

Classroom reps (Carousel Bayrd)

Thank you classroom reps for stepping up! Reviewed list of classroom reps and which classes have no rep yet (missing some from at least 3 4/5 rooms still). PTO is hoping for improved communication and more input /ideas from class reps.

Carousel also hopes to discuss idea of having classrooms sponsor a raffle prize for carnival. Candi notes that her child's preschool did that with much success.

Susie Smetzer-Anderson notes that she would like more diversity in our PTO group. She will be at MMSD parent advisory superintendent meetings and will bring feedback to that. You can contact her with concerns/ideas.

Shelby says west side school PTO groups have been meeting monthly for past 2 years to share ideas and they are going to reach out to community in context of achievement gap, asking various community groups to present to them. If want to go to those monthly meetings let Shelby know.

Next PTO mtg

December 3, 2013 6:30pm VHE Art Room. Some discussion on whether to ask Shahana to talk about family engagement, or have general/business mtg or board game night or assessment talk? Agree that will be business meeting.

8:00 meeting adjourned.