

Minutes for the VHE PTO Meeting
February 7, 2014

Meeting called to order at by President Shelby Connell, at 6:35pm

Passed around the minutes, no objections / no changes. Minutes approved by consent.

Introductions of everyone around the table.

EVENT UPDATE

Blackbird Family Yoga—hosted a week, earned \$20, was an off week, weather issues, we will try this again next year.

Science Night—April 1st. Similar to last year. UW will have stations, and our students will have their own projects. Flyer is going out to remind people that this is a project to do at home (not at school), and you can sign up participate. Sign up by 3/14. Had 50 people last year.

Multicultural Night—there is a need for more people on the committee (Not helping that night, but helping on the committee). Only 3 people do it right now, some are going to graduate. Shelby asked people to volunteer.

Dance- was a great success. Issue with 250 photos that were taken on the red carpet. We now have a CD, but do not know who is in the pictures. Trying to figure out how to get all those pictures to the correct people. Lots of different ideas discussed. An issue is that there may be pictures of students that do not want their pictures made public. Shelby asked for someone to work on this. No one specifically volunteered.

Great Dane Night—April 7th. 11am to 9pm, lunch and dinner, 25% of food only, must say that you're here for Van Hise. Idea that next year this night should be before the carnival, can sell the big item raffle tickets.

CARNIVAL UPDATE

Update on Baskets—every class but 1 has gotten started on baskets, all going to be silent auction. Talk of if we need to have baskets purchased by the PTO, or if each group does its own baskets. Talk of needing a list of all the items per basket, so we can auction it off.

Parents can volunteer for the carnival, sharing room parent information. Also, UW students are coming to volunteer.

Selling iPad this year again, as big raffle item. \$5 tickets.

TREASURER REPORT

2ND round of grants will be in teachers' boxes next week, decisions may be around late March because waiting for money from carnival and other events.

Fall Fund Drive—final total is \$13,386! Yahoo!

Susie—asked if we could sell cookbook at events—carnival? Multicultural night? Get it out there!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Read Your Heart Out Day is coming on February 7th. Goal is to celebrate African American community and parents. 60 readers signed up. Fabu (Madison's former poet laureate) is a guest speaker at assembly on kindness.

15 or 16 MMSD schools participating this year, this is the first year for VHE.

Benchmarking Process—look at reading scores, so many kids are moving forward. Lots of reading evaluations

School Improvement Goals—we are making our goals, MAP goals

Capacity Update—we got it changed! Fabulous letter by Chris and Shelby. We were at 95% before, now we're at 105%, over capacity. 2nd most over-capacity in MMSD.

So now they have accurate data to review, unclear what the next step is.

Concern, they don't think we're going to grow. Look at Kindergarten numbers—this year we have 65 Kindergartners. For 2014-15 school year, we already have 65 Kindergartners signed up, and usually 20+ sign up at the start of the year.

Hamilton is overcrowded too, kids maybe going to Hoyt School next year.

Have future meeting with MMSD, so more coming.

Susie—relator turnovers, city assessors

Will look into assessors' reports

Shelby—next steps—maybe have updates in April / May meetings

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Talk of grouping all supplies so parents can just order a box of supplies instead of having to shop for all of them, and then get consistency / what teachers wanted

Would have to purchase it this year, place order on line. Teachers have to put list together for each grade. Most supplies are available, but not all.

It's a convenience, could also be a way to raise money / support funding for families that struggle paying for supplies.

Hamilton—did it last year, mixed reviews. Peg—we did it at Stephens Elementary for my sons, it was easy to do.

Discussion of whether we want to try it out or not. Shelby—I cannot organize this, I need someone to take this on if they want it to be done. No one volunteers immediately.

NEXT YEAR'S PTO

Starting to think about next year's PTO board.

President—Shelby will do it for one more year

VP—Looking for VPs to help and then move up to president next year

Treasurer—Dana

Secretary—looking for new secretary

At large members

Let Shelby know if you are interested.

Next meeting—March 4th at 6:30 pm, short business meeting and then presentation on overview and identification of Special Education services.

ADJOURN

At approximately 8pm