

Van Hise PTO Meeting

February 9, 2016

General Meeting

Presentation: Zones of Regulation, by Brea Lieberman.

Business Meeting

Attending: 9 Board members, 5 parents

Principal's updates (Wendy Crabb): Mrs. Keeler was sick and could not attend the meeting. The library will not be completed before the book fair. The book fair will probably be back in the cafeteria, March 8-9. The library should be complete that same week, just not in time for the fair. The library furniture/Chrome book cart has been ordered.

Playground (Wendy): Kristin, Carousel, and Wendy met with ZDA and wrote them the first \$1,500 check. There is a community meeting scheduled for 3/30/16, from 6:30-8:00. They are inviting whole Hill Farms and Midvale community, in case anyone wanted to provide input. Wendy will put an announcement into the Hill Farms newsletter, Carousel will put an announcement into the Midvale newsletter.

Next Wednesday, the playground committee will meet with ZDA and talk about different zones and decide what is a priority. We will talk about it at the next PTO meeting. They are also meeting with Peg and the grounds guy from MMSD, because the new main entrance will be the Segoe side. We want to know what is going to change and make sure the new playground meshes with whatever might change with the front entrance, to avoid us spending money for something that ends up having to come out. We're aiming for some visible change by next school year.

Activity Fair (Jeff Maxted): The Activity Fair is a go! 20 organizations have signed up. They hoped for more, but we have to do it with 20 if we're going to do it at all. It will be in the cafeteria; it's a good mix of orgs. Martial arts, pools, dance classes, and Boulders, for example. Whoops offered games for kids while parents look around, but didn't have enough staff for it; we'll ask if we can use their games with our volunteers. We will be setting up tables, some will need electricity; some organizations want demo space. Is the stage an option? Basically, they need a small space with a microphone. The demos would be about 10 minutes and would be opened up to everyone. Wendy will investigate the possibility of using the stage. We sent out info to other schools. Wendy will try to get it into the Isthmus, but will keep it to basic publicity, not totally go crazy with the advertising. Someone suggested listing it in Hula Frog? If we keep it simple and it goes well, we might get the bigger fair next time around.

Carnival (Stephanie MacFarlane and Maggie Hogan): Stephanie and Maggie thanked everyone for helping and asked what feedback people had. People enjoyed it. They suggested that the carnival committee should be a bigger committee, and we need to better explain to people what they will be doing. Next time, they will break it down into jobs, with description and time estimates. Stephanie estimated that she and Maggie spent 250 hours each on the carnival. They are willing to do it again, but need a bigger group - they suggest around 10 people. With a small group, people get burned out. Shelby pointed out that often, when you say "committee," people get turned off. She suggested thinking about the people who were involved that aren't sitting in here already doing stuff. It's the conversations that happen. The good news from the carnival: the profit was just over \$10,000. There will be a carnival meeting on Thursday night. In the raffle, Mrs. Cantwell's Yummy Time got 502 tickets; Wendy asked Ms. McGuire if she'd be willing to do a lunch with ice cream sandwich or something for next year. There was some discussion about how popular the raffle prizes involving teachers are, and how to encourage more teachers to participate in that way. The prize can be at school during lunch, and wouldn't necessarily require extra time at school outside regular hours. The PTO might want to kick in some money for some of these things - Mrs. Cantwell pays for the lunches; for some kids the teacher is the main appeal, but many also appreciate the opportunity for a quiet lunch.

Stephanie asked for feedback on sponsorships. Consensus was that the sponsorships were subtle and unobtrusive.

Did we make any money on food? Last year, we made about \$400; this year, the pizza was donated by Papa John's. We ran out around 6:45/7:00 and had no backup. Stephanie thinks we made \$700-\$800 on the food. Popcorn fell on the sidelines, and nobody knew how to use it. Amira Ottenheimer ran it for a while. Someone suggested that sponsors should be able to hand stuff out. Stephanie said that they did. 3 sponsors gave \$250/each, and 1 gave \$50, then Papa John's and Hy-Vee donated in-kind; Costco gave a \$50 gift card, we used it for money.

If organizaitons sponsor, they could get a free table at the activity fair, to tie it all in together.

What about a database of vendors that we approach so we know who we've approached for what.

Westside PTO (Shelby Connel): Several years ago, Shelby and a friend who was the president of the Midvale PTO started getting PTO board members from West side elementary schools together every month to share ideas and network, etc. Tomorrow night (Feb. 10) their meeting will be about report cards, which are changing for the elementary schools. The meeting is at 6:30 at Lincoln Elementary. The new system wasn't popular when it was first announced; it sounds like the district took the criticism seriously, andmade some changes. The current report

card is 3 pages and redundant. They're trying to make it more relevant/easier to use, and trying to move Madison to quarterly updates instead of semi-annual.

Science Night (Afan Ottenheimer): Science Night is scheduled for April 8. Afan's daughter's wheelchair basketball team qualified for Nationals in Kentucky, and the date of the competition conflicts with Science Night. So he'll need someone to run the night itself. That person would need to contact groups, follow up with details, talk to the custodians, etc. Wendy and Kristin will help.

Teacher grants (Wendy): Wendy found Mrs. Butler's grant sandwiched in the by-laws. The forms went into mailboxes today. Wendy will put them in a spreadsheet and send it around. Someone suggested we provide fans for kitchen staff, since the new construction has gotten rid of their windows and the kitchen gets extremely hot. Wendy will put a grant form in the kitchen staff box.

Treasurer's report (Wendy): Dana McCloskey is out sick. We'll get an update when Dana's back. We're recruiting for the treasurer job. Afan has offered to do it; Wendy suggests finding a second treasurer for support/job training (Afan only has one more year). Also, current board members should think about whether they want to stay on the board for next year. Wendy will stay another year, unless someone else really wants to be president. Wendy invites people to ask questions, remind her to discuss decisions more. Jeff suggests talking to staff, to see if any of the staff is interested in participating in the PTO more. Shelby says that a few years ago, there was a grade-level teacher rep from each grade. They might not come every month, but we could let them know 1-2 weeks ahead of time if there's a topic we'd need/want their input on.

Kindergarten round-up is in April; it's a chance for the Kindergarten team to look at the kids and dynamics for classroom assignments.

Sherry is working on setting up the Great Dane Night for next month.

Afan suggests a Hamilton update for future meetings.

The deadline for the March edition of the Hedgehog Herald (VHE Newsletter) is February 18.