

## Van Hise Elementary PTO Board Meeting Minutes January 6, 2015

Present: Shelby Connell, Dana McCloskey, Eileen Snyder, Jodi Beck, Carousel Bayrd, Jolynne Roorda, LèAndrea Vernon.

**Teacher "likes" survey.** Shelby put the results of the survey of teacher's likes into a spreadsheet. The board discussed what to do with it. It was suggested that we might send out the survey earlier next year (this year, it was a last-minute idea). Someone pointed out that 2 years ago, this kind of information was included on a bulletin board; if we try that next year, it might be motivation for teachers to fill in the survey. We can post it before open house, and ask teachers who didn't fill it out again. Another suggestion was to put the survey responses in the office for people to look at. Beth Gunshor has been putting information about the non-classroom teachers in the newsletter. We could add the classroom teachers, too.

**Grants.** The due date for grant requests is in February near the time of the carnival, before the March meeting. Shelby asked if we want to follow the same process as for the last round of grants for now, then reconsider the process for next year to see if we get more responses? The board agreed. Shelby will move the deadline for the grant requests to sometime after the Carnival.

**Kindergarten registration and playdates.** Kindergarten registration is on February 2. Shelby will ask Peg if they will need help from the PTO with registration. But we do need to plan the playdates. We'll need to figure out which current families have an incoming kindergartener and are willing to help plan the playdates.

Last year, there was a Saturday gathering for incoming Kindergarteners, and all the Kindergarten teachers attended. Shelby said if we're planning on doing something like that this year, we'll need to have handouts for registration. Last year, the PTO provided supplies for the Saturday gathering, but the teachers did not get paid for their time. Should the PTO pay a stipend for them? Last year, it was the teachers' idea to do the gathering. Shelby had told the teachers about how other schools do a practice Kindergarten day. Last year, the Kindergarten assessment was cut, so the teachers didn't have any information about the incoming Kindergarteners, so they set up the Saturday gathering as a way to learn about the kids, kind of an informal assessment. Dana is in favor of paying the teachers, but it seems a little unfair that the teachers didn't get paid last year. There will be a new Kindergarten team next year (the K/1 teachers are meant to loop, but it's hard to predict what changes might happen that would make that not happen). The new Kindergarten team might have other ideas for what they want to do. Shelby will talk to Peg. If the Saturday gathering can't happen without PTO money, then the PTO can pay. The current stipend is about \$35/hour.

**Shelby's list.** Shelby has put together a list summarizing her duties and activities as PTO president, as well as how she has attempted to break out some of what she does among other board members. The board will have a separate meeting, not connected to a monthly PTO meeting, so we can talk about whether anyone currently on the board wants to be president next year (or possibly 2 people working as co-presidents). At this meeting, we'll talk about what the board wants to take on, but also what has worked this year and what hasn't.