

Van Hise Elementary PTO Business Meeting Minutes June 2, 2015

Present: 8 board members, 6 parents, Mrs. Keeler.

Fund raising events (Sherry Niede) We are trying to have one fundraising event per month. A new fundraising opportunity this year: Papa John's provides a 30% discount to every order placed and in addition, 10% goes back to the school. The offer runs year-round for 1 year. There is an event at Evereve on June 9; 15% of purchases goes back to the school. In setting up the events, Sherry will try to do them on the same night every month, and maybe set up more than one thing in the same night. She wants to see if Sentry will do something once per month. Other ideas for next year: Brat Fest, Jamba Juice (they might be able to come to an event) Send any fundraising event ideas to Sherry.

Overlapping donation requests. The events and fundraising volunteers are working with Afan on a shared document so everyone working on fundraising an other types of solicitation knows who to contact and what their general rules are (how often, etc.). Some places get confused about the difference between the PTO and the school; they have different tax exempt numbers, but they do get confused. When contacting vendors, it is important that people clarify who they're with, and who (school or PTO) the vendor has already donated to. They want to plan the best approach ahead of time, then try to do all the asking in September. Sometimes we contact organizations for things other than donations, such as participation, and the organization offers a donation anyway. For example, when Jeff and Shelley contacted potential participants for the vendor fair, they got some donations for carnival. For the classroom baskets that were sold at the carnival's silent auction, the PTO emphasized that classrooms should not to ask for donations, but it still happened; we can't control what that many people do. Shelby and Wendy can look at the Google doc and start to fill this out.

Metcalf's has a limit of 1 donation per calendar year, other organizations have timeframes, etc. When planning community events/restaurant nights, might check with restaurants at same time for gc donations for carnival.

Listserv (Afan Ottenheimer): Afan will create an automatic listserv that people can subscribe and unsubscribe. It will hold Van Hise PTO/docs, and will act as a document depository. There will be folders for all the things the PTO is doing. Share with communication@vanhisepto.org, it will be available for everyone to see, set up like Wikipedia. Everyone has access and can edit; edits can be rolled back if need be. People can post things with vanhisepto.org email; other emails should send to communications@vanhisepto.org, which will copy the document and own it, then post. Right now, people don't have to login to make changes, but those requirements can be added. The plan is to get a timeline and description posted for all events so that a new person can step in if necessary. Afan is reaching out to people to get

things posted, at this point, there are examples, so Afan says to go ahead and put stuff in.

New library fundraising (Wendy Crabb): Peg will be meeting with architect and Mike Hertting on June 3, and they might need another input session. We do want quick fill water fountains, but they're not in the plan, and we may want to invest in water bottles that kids can fill regularly. Furniture: there will be no new furniture for new classrooms because we already have classroom furniture, but we will have basic furniture for library. If we want fun soft furniture, will have to fund raise for it. Scholastic lets you earn points toward that kind of purchase, but the furniture isn't super durable. Furniture is expensive. The quick fill water fountains cost \$5,000 for two, including installation. How might we partner with Hamilton? Their PTO president would be willing to meet with the new VHE PTO board to talk about coordinating. What about sponsorship? MMSD rules are unclear about sponsorship. Maybe businesses would be willing to donate, for plaque - "donated by..." Or, we could do a "buy a brick" type fundraiser. We have to be careful about the feeling of marketing to children in our fundraising efforts. We will ask at the district what their parameters are re: fundraising/sponsorships, etc. The direct ask next year will be all about infrastructure improvements. Is the playground on hold for now? There is a contingent of people who are still interested, and there will be a small meeting re: continuing to raise money for it. Some people say that the current playground is a hazard, and we should continue to pursue a new playground. Carousel and Kristin are going to meet with a landscape architect; the main issue will be about drainage for lake Van Hise (icing issues on the concrete part of the playground). One problem with playgrounds has been maintenance costs skyrocketing because of new equipment; we will have to keep that in mind. We have so many requests for funds on our parents. We can do it in phases, but we have to remember the big picture, too. Maybe we could post something on UW job board to get people who are looking for experience in things like architecture, etc. The garden pavilion cost is \$25k; we are not sure if that will be grants or donations. [Big quartz rock].

Final grant funding requests for approval (Wendy Crabb): The Garden pavilion is not being funded fully by the PTO, but they do have a few receipts.

- Chrome Books: The PTO has been asked to fund \$6,000 for a Chrome book cart. The school would pay \$6,000 and the PTO would pay an additional \$6,000. The Chrome books are supported by the school district. Once they're ordered, it takes months to arrive; they could go in the June 30 order.
- An online reading program subscription, Raz Kids: the cost is about \$850, and the purpose is to elevate reading; it would be for the whole school. The number of classrooms per grade that would get it would vary, depending on level. The fee would cover 10 subscriptions throughout the school, or about 350 students. The 3rd graders have done it and like it. It is a basic skill foundational tool; it is engaging for many kids and can turn into intervention for some kids.
- Time for Kids: The cost is \$1,000, which comes from the PTO.

- Projector for Beth Cantwell - hers is totally kaput. The cost is about \$800.
- Flowcabulary: A reading tool requested by Dana Prager. She originally thought district was going to cover it, but they won't. Peg will get more information about it.

Dana McCloskey distributed copies of the budget. There is currently \$35,000 to carry into next year. If we fund all the requests, we'll still carry \$27,000. Every year, we have been bringing in an income of almost \$50,000. We currently have spent less than what was budgeted for teacher grants. Dana doesn't see a problem with covering these grants. We can just buy the water fountains, so we could potentially just plain cover them, without having to fundraise for that piece. Someone suggests regular updates on what was raised and what it was spent on in the monthly newsletter.

There was a question about why the PTO is considering funding for a Chrome cart, when the PTO had a long discussion last year about funding a request for three iPads. Peg responded that they're used very differently. iPads are more personal, quick look-up things. Chrome books are better for writing projects, etc. The district's technology plan is paused right now. iPads are still highly used - every classroom has at least 3, every special educator has at least 1 - they are priceless for kids who need special ed/calming/etc. The Chrome books are used for writing, typing, and assessment; when the Chrome carts are available, the students don't have to move to the library for those things. Chrome books on a cart are not played with, they are more serious sorts of things.

Afan moves to approve the chrome books, Dana seconds. Peg points out that the district might approve a 3rd cart. The motion passed unanimously.

RazKids: The 3rd grade team used it this year. It came from a conversation within the school-based leadership team. The question was, what do you do when kids aren't with a teacher or a reading group, but are engaged with another child in reading issues. The 3rd grade teachers said they like it, other teachers saw demos and did classroom visits. The subscription is by number of kids, not classrooms. We can do all K-2 classrooms, but beyond 2nd grade, the usage would be more selective (it is aimed at emerging readers). Dana moved to approve the funding for RazKids, Jeff seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Time for Kids (TFK): Afan notes that there was an ad for a movie and his daughter came home saying she had to see it; Peg says it's an awesome non-fiction read for kids, great for ELL. The school is not pursuing National Geographic for this year. For TFK, the school would contribute \$300, the PTO would contribute \$1000. Dana moved to approve the funding, Wendy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Projector: Carrie Schwoerer moved to approve the projector for Ms. Cantwell, Kristin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wendy will send out an email about meetings for next year; they will be split between 1st and 2nd Tuesdays. The September meeting will be Sept. 8. The August meeting: Aug. 25. Both will be at 6:30. Wendy will check on the Vintage for the August meeting; last year we had to spend a minimum to use their back room, but it was not a problem to meet the minimum. Wendy will email with details closer to the meeting date.