

Van Hise PTO Board Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2015

Present: Peg Keeler, Shelby Connell, Maggie Hogan, LéAndrea Vernon, Jolynne Roorda, Sheryl Niede, Ritu Ottenheimer, Afan Ottenheimer, Carousel Bayrd, Shelly Maxted, Wendy Crabb, Eileen Snyder, Kristin Ruedi-Krause.

Events Calendar:

Events coordinators will introduce the events at the first general meeting of the year.

Events this year will be:

- Kindergarten and new families welcome breakfast
- Picture day (we still need some volunteers)
- Open House - Oct. 6. Format for the open house is yet to be determined, but it will focus on how learning happens in the classrooms.
- Retake Day
- School Dance - Nov. 6. Tien Thai will DJ, Miss Chanel will help coordinate the dance.
- Scholastic Book Fair - Nov. 16-18 (varying hours). It will held be in the current library.
- Parents Night Out - Dec. 11. Sherry will try to coordinate a benefit night to be on the same night.
- Carnival - Jan. 22. There are currently no volunteers to run the carnival; it will not happen if there are no coordinators.
- Activities Fair - Feb. 20. Shelly and Jeff Maxted are coordinating.
- Multicultural Night - March 4.
- Science Night - April 8.
- There will be no talent show this school year. One old event had to be eliminated to make room for new events, and since the kids have the opportunity to share their talents every Friday during lunch (Van Hise Has Got Talent), it was decided the talent show could be sacrificed.
- Art and Craft Fair and Bake Sale - May 7. There will also be a spring garden work day at the same time. Sherry is looking into getting food carts to come to the Art Fair. She will be sure none sell desserts that will compete with the bake sale.
- Ice Cream Social - ????. The question was raised whether we should do a bike repair on the day of the ice cream social, as has happened in the past, but it was not settled.
- Fifth Grade Graduation - 6/10.

Principal's update (Peg Keeler):

Peg is expecting there will be about 407 kids at VHE for the 2015/2016 school year, with about 380 enrolled as of this meeting (that's the number that have said they

are enrolling). There are about 30 new families, with about 10 families who have moved elsewhere. There will be 3 sections of Kindergarten, each with about 21 students. The district rule is that if the number goes higher than 21 in each section, then the district will provide an extra teacher - but not an additional classroom. As of this meeting, the 3 K sections have 21, 22, and 23 kids in them. Peg noted that a lot of kids coming from other countries arrive after the start of school. Peg reports that the team is in place, the teachers are ready, and it feels like this will be a good year.

Construction update. The gate is up, there will be a wall to close off the main Waukesha entrance by the office. There's a buzzer on the Hamilton breezeway doors, and they will open at the end of the day. The ground breaking will be around the second week of September. The new LMC will have updated technology, great furniture. We might want to add soft furniture/gathering spots. This coming year will be our second year as a Welcoming School for everyone, regardless of where they are on the gender spectrum. The new LMC area may have a gender neutral restroom. The construction of the new LMC is scheduled to be completed in January, with the remodeling of the current LMC into two classrooms to follow. Then, over the summer, the office and the whole front of the school will be moved to the Segoe side. The chorus room will become the office, nurse's station, and office space for the psychologist, etc. There will also be a quiet space for kids, especially kids with light sensitivity/headaches, and for calming.

The new library will have a family center. The theme for the year in the district is families as patrons. There will also be a conference area. There will be a dividing wall between the Hamilton and VHE sides, so the library can be used as a nice, open community space.

Mary Michaud invited Mike Barry to divert water from Hamilton to the VHE rain garden, which has much more capacity than is currently being used.

School-Community Partnership. Midvale Lutheran Church has chosen to "adopt" VHE. They want to volunteer and help support learning. This is good timing, because Schools of Hope was cut from VHE. It can only be in 3 elementary schools this year, and VHE is not one of them. Sherry Nelson will coordinate volunteers from the church. Peg is thinking about training, etc. This was set up through the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools.

In September the focus will be on writing and instructional training for teachers around the "families as partners" theme. When the remodel is done over the summer, the old office will become an OT/PT spce, with space for the ESL and Special Education teachers.

Benches are being moved to the breezeway area, all bike racks will be moved, probably to the Segoe side of the building. Teacher parking will be a challenge. Peg

and Mike Brown (the assistant principal at Hamilton) have talked about sharing parking. Peg is also investigating a crossing guard for Segoe close to the school.

By-laws (Wendy Crabb): Wendy notes that the by-laws need to be updated.

Classroom Reps (Maggie Hogan): Maggie is coordinating the classroom reps this year. Carousel will send her last year's list of reps, Peg will send her the list of teachers. The goal is for each classroom to have a rep by the open house.

Grade Level Potlucks. Rennebohm is reserved, volunteers are lined up for planning. We ask families to bring a dish to pass, and the PTO provides dessert, utensils, plates, and napkins. Last year, lots of people brought dessert as well, so maybe we should bring drinks instead - juice boxes or water? Both the water fountain and restroom will be available.

Benefit nights. There are no benefit nights in September because of the potlucks. Sherry is trying to do local businesses. On October 18, Rock and Jump will donate 15% of any receipts to VHE from 11 am to 8 pm. Customers have to buy special socks from them. It's located in Fitchburg. You just have to say you're from VHE, and they'll save the receipt. Last year, Pasqual's was overwhelmed, so Sherry is thinking of asking to spread it over 2-3 nights. For December, she is trying to coordinate a shopping benefit to go with parents night out. She is waiting for confirmation, but it looks like for the whole month of January, Metcalfe's will donate 5% of purchases when people say they're from VHE.

Other ideas for benefit nights include winter activities like skating or skiing. The Great Dane benefit night will be in April. Some months still lack a benefit night. Sherry is hoping to have food carts with the art fair on May 7. With food carts, 15% of sales go back to the school. The idea is to get people to stay. It was noted that any food sales should not conflict with the bake sale.

Major goals for 2015/2016 (Wendy Crabb):

The major fundraising goals for this year are:

- Playground
- Building upgrades
- Fast-fill water stations
- Garden/pavilion
- Supporting classrooms
- Teacher stipend

Direct appeal - the letter will emphasize past projects. Someone suggested doing a large thermometer to provide a graphic representation of how much the donations grow.

This year's t-shirt is being designed by Jolynne Roorda, and hopefully we'll have it soon.