



October 8, 2024 Minutes

In Attendance:

PTO Board Members: Mimi Johnson (Co-President), Chrissy Greer (Co-President), Adam Gratch (Events), Joseph Clark (After School Classes), George Sisson (Co-Treasurer), Renee Deschard (At Large), Colleen Ott (Co-Secretary), Maggie Brickerman (Co-Secretary)

~24 parents and staff (in person)

~12 parents and staff (online)

Call to order

A meeting of the VHE PTO was called to order at 6:32 PM by Co-President Mimi Johnson.

Approval of minutes

The PTO Board approved the September meeting minutes on October 1, 2024. The minutes are available online.

Reports

PTO Updates, Old Business and New Business

Maggie Brickerman and Colleen Ott were nominated as co-secretaries. They were approved by unanimous consent.

The PTO co-presidents presented updates including that there is a team forming to work on communications. There remain additional at-large spots available on the board for those who may be interested. There are also opportunities for class representatives and class rep coordinators.

There are also upcoming volunteer needs:

- Picture Day - Friday, October 11, Sign Up Genius is up
- Recess: Sign Up Genius is posted
- Events:
 - Fall Dance coming up on 10/18 from 6-8 PM; Sign Up Genius is up (30-45 minutes). Need to be an approved volunteer through MMSD.
 - Dance in gym
 - Quieter space in cafeteria
 - Water bottle donations
 - Setup and cleanup
 - Garden cleanup day in November; Sign Up Genius coming up

- Empowerment Groups + Committees:
 - Parents and caregivers of kids with learning differences
 - Parents and caregivers of kids with kids of color
 - A is for Anti Racism
 - Safety and Community
 - Ambassador program - serve as mentors to new families; trying to track down records

Principal Stein

- General updates:
 - Picture day is October 11
 - Assessment with new Act 20, other laws, staff working feverishly towards individualized plans for students with specific, targeted interventions. Thank you to the staff.
 - Everyone should have received their screener update.
 - Next bi-weekly update from Ms. Stein coming this Friday.
 - November 1st is a half day, conference prep for teachers.
 - Conferences coming up in November (November 4, all day). Don't have the evening and the day schedule, one full day on November. Staff are in school on November 5th but students are off. Really value the time with families and want people to come to conferences.
 - October 29th, first lockdown drill in the afternoon around 2pm. Don't want the little kids to be caught off guard.
 - 3rd grade families: last screener; will start hearing information soon about the last assessment.
 - Introducing Rudy and Dr. Hoffman

Open Forum

- Questions and discussion about recent fifth grade field trip cancellation.
- Questions and discussion about measurement of climate by MMSD.
- Questions and discussion about site based leadership team (SBLT).
- Questions and discussion about staff turnover.
- Questions and discussion about curriculum, opportunities for flexibility and joy in classrooms.
- Follow-up discussion from September meeting discussion regarding switching rooms for math based on skill level.
- Recognition of climate and culture within the building by Rudy Bankston who is supporting healing work.
- Discussion about equity and instruction. Recognition that VHE class sizes are not small enough for current instructional model.
- Preview of PTO Community Pulse Survey opportunity.

- Ms. Stein requested families be direct and transparent with her - through email, phone, or face-to-face.
- Dr. Hoffman reinforced importance of taking concerns about district policy to the MMSD board.

Next Steps/Follow up

Next full PTO meeting November 12th.

*Respectfully submitted by PTO Board
October 10, 2024*