

Vienna Elementary School General PTA Meeting Minutes

Date, Time and Location: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the VES Media Center

Attendees: Gul Gharbieh, Rebecca Johnson Zara, Anna Fravel, Vinolia Samodien, Kim Kolar, Krystal Salazar, Donna Davidovich, Kristen Rhoads, Ann Wyborski, Meri Wimberly, Sharon Chan, Becky Elliott, Kim LaMore, Pam Deaton, Reshma Patel, Judy McVey, Jessica Torres, Angela Sorrell, Shelly Baumer, Paulette Torpey, Katie Charnoff, Michelle Small, Amir Birjandi, Chris Wood, Jeff Thoma, Stefanie Petrucelli, Heather Kenney, Mitch Schwartz, Kim Bryant, Molly Peng, Eben Montaquila

I. Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Co-Presidents' Report, Welcome -- Stefanie Petrucelli and Heather Kenney

- Introduction of board members: Co-Presidents Stefanie Petrucelli and Heather Kenney, Vice President Mitch Schwartz, Treasurer Kim Bryant, and Secretary Molly Peng.
- Preview of Fall Family Fun Fest on Friday, Sept. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. on the blacktop. PTA cross promoting Vienna Community Center's 20th anniversary party for its teen center the same night.
- VES PTA bylaws: Updated bylaws required every five years. Most recent VES PTA update was Fall 2016; next update due Fall 2021. Bylaws are on the PTA web site under "PTA info."
- No questions or concerns from attendees.

III. Principal's Report – Vice Principal Eben Montaquila

- Introduction and brief review of successful first few weeks of school.
- VES administration posed question to all VES teachers: *Why* do we want to be here? When you know *WHY* it makes your *WHAT* better. Teachers' answers written above each of their doors.
- Discussed Madison Pyramid Family Life Education preview night. Social and emotional development are focus of younger grades, and 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will begin classes in December that discuss physical development. An FLE opt-out form was in packets issued at the beginning of the school year. Parents will receive notification before the lessons happen in the classroom.
- Emphasized that his door is always open. Urged parents to reach out with questions or concerns.

IV. Treasurer's Report -- PTA Treasurer Kim Bryant

- Budget Overview: copies of budget provided as handouts in preparation for vote. Last year's PTA Board did an exemplary job – balance forward is approximately \$60,000. Current year contributions/donations are approximately \$3,000. Currently have approximately 200 members and anticipating 300 for the year. Total of 451 students, so great potential for additional memberships. Some money from membership fees is taken out immediately for state and national dues. Target reserve is \$18,000. The "no-fuss" fundraiser this year will be in February: "the month of love for VES!"

- Audit of 2018-19 budget will be presented at the October 22 PTA meeting for approval and adoption.
- Questions posed from attendees: Is there flexibility with the line items? Answer: Yes, always. Is there more of a detailed description of the line items? Answer: Yes, in the detailed Excel spreadsheet that will be made available to all members. Monthly reconciliations are being done as well.
- Vote on 2019-20 Budget: the PTA members in attendance approved and adopted the 2019-20 budget with no opposition.

V. Board and Committee Chair Reports

- PTA Parent Survey Results -- PTA Vice President Mitch Schwartz: Reviewed several slides based on survey results, specifically feedback on PTA meeting attendance, after school programs, and allocation of PTA funds.
- Great Art -- Rebecca Johnson Zara: Currently 60 volunteers for this classroom program but always need more. First art session in October. Two monthly training sessions for volunteers: one in a.m. in VES Cafeteria; one in p.m. in VES Library. The program ends in late Spring.
- Odyssey of the Mind -- Jeff Thoma: Program focuses on groups of five to seven kids working together to creatively solve a problem. Sign up on PTA website. Students grouped by grade (K – 2 [less competitive], 3–5, and 6). Last year the sixth grade team did extremely well. Volunteers are needed to coach, judge, and provide places to meet. Begins the first week of October.
- Student Directory -- Angela Sorrell: Working with A to Z Connect on printed copy and app version for phones. Flyers and links to Web site will be sent to parents so they can verify their family's information and/or remove information as they see fit. A to Z Connect works with sponsors so VES does not pay for the directory.

VI. Staff Report and Parent Program -- VES Librarian Paulette Torpey: Reviewed VES library programs and resources. Virginia Reader's Choice: gives students a voice/vote on which books they like best. FCPS databases that are free to all students and families: MyOn, PebbleGo, Britannica (encyclopedia), World Book, Tumble Book, and Tumble Cloud. Mrs. Torpey's WHY: She is a life-long reader and her goal is that every student who leaves VES is a life-long reader and learner. Note on overdue notices sent home with students: there are no overdue fines; books are checked out for three weeks; parents would only need to pay for lost or damaged books (she sometimes accepts replacements or can have student "work" in the library to offset the cost of the book). Previewed author Kathryn Otoshi's visit on September 30.

VII. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Next PTA meeting is October 22.

Meeting minutes compiled by PTA Secretary Molly Peng.