

Vienna Elementary School  
PTA Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mitch Schwartz, Stefanie Petrucelli, Kim Bryant, Molly Peng, John Carmichael, Grace Thomas, Joni Thomas, Christopher Lazun, Darlene Doley, Kimberly Steimel Howard, Trish Helsley, Michelle Small, Adrienne Somensatto, Donna Davidovich, Amit Patel, David Dargatis, Sharon Chen, Trish Alexander, Peggy Morrison

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
- II. Vote on Minutes of October 22, 2019 PTA Meeting: Minutes were approved as presented.
- III. Co-Presidents' Report -- Stefanie Petrucelli
  - Had one dining for dollars at Panera since our last meeting
  - Tomorrow there is another at Mod Pizza. Need to bring the flyer (there are extra)
  - December – fantastic turnout for the family dance, great show, Chair Reshma Patel did a great job
  - In February there will be a VES school fundraiser: 29 days of love for our school – more info to come in the coming weeks
  - After School Activities: starting at the end of Feb, info in the next Wednesday folder
- IV. Principal's Report -- Principal John Carmichael
  - Superintendent has proposed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year to school board. A few highlights: \$3.2B requested for next year, which is \$172M more than past year. \$80M earmarked coming from the state, \$90M from the county itself
  - Reasons for extra funds:
    - higher enrollment (1,400 more students – almost 189,000 total), employee compensation (we are in middle of the counties in our area in terms of salary, approx. \$13,000 per student spent, puts us closer to the middle of the pack)
    - Very large increase in special education and ESOL populations which requires more funding
    - Get a Jumpstart on some of the state school counselors requirements: in 2022, elementary schools will require a 1:250 counselor: students ratio (we are far from this), trying to get additional counselors now, middle and high school already close to that ratio (mental health needs)
  - January 27: school board holding first public hearing on the budget, open invitation – if there are additional comments, they'll continue over the next days
  - February 6: school board will adopt budget
  - April 14: propose budget to board of supervisors, then have their hearings, then approved mid-May for the upcoming year
  - Thank everyone for great second quarter, things running smoothly, a lot of extra instructional assistants to help with the larger classes
  - Kindergarten orientation in April: if you know any families/neighbors of rising kindergarteners, they can already turn in some paperwork – they can call the school for it
- V. Treasurer's Report: PTA Treasurer Kim Bryant
  - Great shape financially – not a lot of activity since last meeting
    - \$15,103 in checking
    - \$26,341 in savings
    - \$41,445.17 = total assets
  - Projected to have 300 members, currently at 219 members, want a few more families
  - Dance was a free event, raffle tickets for events with VES staff – \$2,262.56 raised

- VI. Board and Committee Chair Reports
- Food for Others update & March Food Drive Service Project -- PTA Vice President Mitch Schwartz
    - Went to Food for Others headquarters with Moira Jacobsen to iron out all the details, working on everything with the teachers
    - Collecting for the entire month of March, sixth graders to lead it
    - Will put together "power packs" (basically food for the weekend for elementary age kids)
    - Focus on Walking Wednesdays and Biking Fridays to bring in food supplies
    - Tables in main lobbies to encourage families to participate
    - 2,020 packs is the goal
    - Asking sixth grade parents to help out as well
    - Amazon wish list to make it even easier for families
  - Update on 5k, Peggy Morrison and Michelle Small
    - 5k will be on April 26, same format as before, fun run first then 5k – looking for volunteers to reach out to sponsors – need manpower to make phone calls and send emails
    - T-shirt design contest – info in Wednesday folder
    - Website is now live, registration – VES.5k.racewire.com
    - May send out messages to room parents, social media, parent body that wants to donate
    - Thursday, Friday before race and that morning need volunteers to help prep for the race
- VII. Staff Report -- VES Reading Teacher Mrs. Darlene Doley and Kindergarten Teacher Ms. Grace Thomas
- Thank you for the lunches and snacks, soups, etc.
  - Read-a-thon coming up in February, in good shape. There will be a donation link via amazon
- VIII. Parent Program -- VES Counselor Mrs. Joni Thomas and School Based Technology Teacher Mr. Christopher Lazun.
- Digital Citizenship
    - All about finding balance with media, don't let it overtake your life
    - Best practices: use media with your kids, TALKING about it, model media behavior, set and know the rules and expectations for your family, make everything transparent
    - Use "Common Sense Media" ratings
    - VES policy depends on classroom teachers – may be used for project-based learning in upper grades. Third grade at VES laptops are 1:1, in classroom only (not taken home)
    - Middle school – starting to get laptops this coming year, have to keep phones in their backpacks
    - High school – given a laptop, they take it home
    - Be on the lookout for social media red flags
    - Choose, Check, Chat
    - Digital Citizenship info available on VES site
- IX. New Business: Next meeting will be "offsite" at a fun location – more to come
- X. Meeting was adjourned at 8 :14pm