

**Vienna Elementary School
PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on BBCU**

Attendees: Heather Kenney, Stefanie Petrucelli, Mitch Schwartz, Kim Bryant, Molly Peng, John Carmichael, Shelly Baumer, Sharon Powers, Alicia Lawson, Katie Aiken, Christine and Taylor Krieger, Amber Miller, Alyssa Lehman, Beth and Dave Dargatis, Leslie Wood, Rehana Parsons, Sharon Chen, Hoa Pham, Liz Bentzinger, Kimberly Steimel, Amanda Walker, Jennie Melchior, Judy McVey, Adrienne Somensatto, Ploykarat Sung, Maureen Cohen, Kristen Rhoads, Alison McKee, Sha Brennan, Kayleen Oblack, Jing Sun, Becky Elliott, Melissa Scheeren, Trish Helsley, Kristin Skelton, Sophia Chen, Angela Sorrell

- I. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

- II. **Co-Presidents' Report, Welcome — Stefanie Petrucelli and Heather Kenney**
 - Welcome to the second meeting of the year
 - Introduction of VES staff present at this meeting: Principal Carmichael, Shelly Baumer, Ms. Lawson, Ms. Aiken (new art teacher), Ms. Powers, Ms. Cohen. Thank you to the staff for all that you're doing to make virtual learning successful
 - Melanie Meren will be joining us on November 11 for a virtual discussion. FCPS revised the in-person learning model. FCPS will be reaching out to parents soon to reconfirm parent's choices. Mr. Carmichael will also address later on
 - Thank you to those who participated in the first Dining for Dollars event. Next one at the Casual Pint: 11/8 – Noon to 8pm
 - Fall "No Fuss Fundraiser" going on now. Please go to the PTA website www.ves-pta.org to join and donate
 - Please update all information for the school directory via the A to Z app or website
 - We are hoping to have more events for students and families (outdoors and/or virtual) in the upcoming months
 - Thank you to all who came to the Kona Ice Event and participated safely
 - No changes to the meeting minutes from the last PTA meeting; approved

- III. **Treasurer's Report — PTA Treasurer Kim Bryant**
 - As of 9/30/2020 – PTA is in great financial shape
 - Total assets: \$47,753
 - YTD income: \$6,104

- YTD expenses: \$1,381
- Net income in the positive currently: \$4,722
- As of today, we have 126 PTA members, our goal is 250 members
- Over halfway to \$5,000 goal for PTA fundraiser (currently at \$2,900)

IV. Principal's Report — VES Principal John Carmichael

- Thank you to all of the parents for all that you've done to support virtual learning
- Reminder: spirit wear sale going on now
- Individual pictures will be happening in November, you can sign up for a spot online (11/2 and 11/3). Please sign up in advance, they are small windows of time. Pictures take place in our gym. One door for entrance and one for exit
- Dr. Brabrand and School Board approved a few more small groups to come back into the building. Preschool students started today. Next week: IDS program
- K – 2 approved return. Contingent on us staying within our metrics and being able to staff. On 11/17, kindergarten will start
- Please work with your kids on wearing masks for extended periods of time. We will have some fresh air breaks so kids can take their masks off for a period of time
- Mrs. Aikens – Staff report: Introduced as the new art teacher. Awesome getting to know your kids. Reiterated gratitude for parent support

V. Presentation from VES Equity Lead Alicia Lawson

- VES Equity Team: Ms. Lawson. Mrs. Medicott, Mrs. Grimm. Parent representative: Amber Miller
- Meeting on 10/26 to develop list of goals for our school
- Looking to do an equity audit this year – looking at instructional processes, current procedures, what we could improve going forward to make VES more equitable
- Here for YOU and the VES community. Feel comfortable to reach out to any of the equity leads or VES admin. They welcome any ideas or feedback related to equity at VES

VI. Presentation from VES Counselor Sharon Powers

- Happy to be back at VES (have been at VES since 2016, took last year off to be with son)
- Presentation: Supporting the whole child – Student wellness in the Virtual World
- There is an uptick in mental health concerns for both parents and children
- Mental Health warning signs for kids – some examples: complaining of aches and pains, saying they don't feel well, withdrawing from activities and friendships, changes in eating and/or sleeping habits, reverting back to previous behavior
- She is hosting virtual lunch bunches if anyone would like their kids to join

- What kids need most is you SHOWING UP – Feeling seen, being soothed, feeling safe
- Check in with your kids frequently, practice active listening, model the use of a support network, develop a family self-care toolbox, have your child create a calm zone, show the distinction between can't vs. won't, show compassion
- Seen + Soothed + Safe = Security
- Emojis are a great tool for children to self identify and express emotions

VII. New Business: Questions for Mr. Carmichael

- *Q. If a teacher opted for virtual, can they stay virtual? And vice versa for in-person? Will Group C have a separate class?* A. At the school level we don't have a lot of info at this time. Hoping for more info this week. New documentation coming out this week about reconfirming choice. Asking staff for that same information as well
- *Q. Did VES group classes by virtual and hybrid preferences?* A. Yes, as best as possible. The concurrent plan would make some changes to our original plans. We are getting more info from the pilots soon and it will be presented at the School Board meeting in November
- Tier One ADA designations will not be required to come into the building
- Tues/Wed group, Thurs/Fri group – how kids will be categorized
- If a teacher is Tier 2 – 4 or no ADA, they will come into the building and they will teach approximately 10 children. The students at home will also learn virtually on those days
- Group C students – all virtual, all week (Tues – Fri)
- Mondays will become completely asynchronous two weeks prior to in-person start date
- *Q. Will kindergarteners stay with current teachers?* A. Yes, that is what the hope is. May have to revisit once all choices have been made
- 12/1 – 1st and 2nd graders return to in-person learning
- Still dependent on health metrics (involves surrounding areas, 30% of FCPS staff live outside of Fairfax County)
- Virtual selection will remain for all of the school year
- VES is trying their best to keep kids with same teachers, same classrooms
- The kids will have lunch in their classroom, recess will be just their class, will use a portion of Waters or Caffi Field for recess
- Playgrounds not approved for student use now, students not allowed to share equipment, would have to be things they can do independently (jump rope, bring a basketball – use their equipment only)
- In person learning: laptops will need to come into school with the kids, come in fully charged with power cord, will go back and forth each day

- If a teacher is a Tier One they will teach virtually from home. A staff member will monitor the kids in person. May be a bus attendant, bus driver, or someone from food services. Don't have enough instructional assistants, especially at the upper grades
- 4th grade – only 11 kids opted for virtual
- *Q. Can a choice for a child be to be flexible to stay with their specific teacher's choice?* A. Don't know the answer to that, great question
- Human Resources will make decisions on ADA, also dependent on the needs we have within our buildings – if not a Tier One designation and we need them in the building, they have a choice of: a LOA, resigning, or retiring
- Group C – with us being a small school, if we are able to have full time virtual, then we'd do that if they are Tier One teachers. For many of our grade levels we only have 2 teachers; may not be able to make that work for a full virtual classroom
- *Q. HVAC update?* A. Was discussed at SB meeting – can put more info out. Air filters are being changed, windows are recommended to be open, schools are putting in additional air filters (VES has no need for that), using all classrooms that have windows and keeping them OPEN
- *Q. How will we know if teachers are Tier One ADA?* A. Cannot answer, HIPAA violation
- *Q. Will we know teacher choices prior to our decisions?* A. Don't know deadlines for either groups right now. Last time it was the same date for choices to be due from both parents and teachers
- *Q. How are specials impacted?* A. Still waiting on to hear if specialists would go into the classroom. Trying to limit the amount of movement from students during the day
- *Q. Considering still mixing up elementary schools?* A. They are trying to avoid that by using the concurrent model
- There is a plexiglass shortage throughout the country, so we will not have it at VES right now. Teachers will be able to circulate with students. Will use smart board as well
- *Q. Planning time for teachers to make this transition?* A. Not sure yet. Lots of questions as well for concurrent planning
- Desks will be 6 feet apart, an average of 10 students in a classroom
- Will be hard for upper grades where the classes are more filled. Will work with facilities to find space
- If there is a positive COVID case, the classroom will shut down for 14 days, students and teacher would go into a virtual setting, and then go back to concurrent model

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.