

Valley / Valley Southwoods PTO
Minutes of the General Council Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019 11:00 AM at the LRC

Present: Brooke Acheson, Julie Bebensee, Ronda Bern, Sarah Connolly, Alicia Emanuel, Sue Fisher, Stephanie Horak, Ruth Lerg, Andi Lipman, Liz Nelson, Sarah Overton

Brooke called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Those present introduced themselves.

Stephanie read the minutes from the April 11, 2019 General Council meeting. Julie moved to approve the minutes. Liz seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes are approved.

Stephanie reports that Membership continues to increase, but we are not at the prior year's levels. We discussed the need for this organization to stay relevant in order to maintain membership.

Treasurer Ronda Bern passed out the proposed budget and the bank statement. These were reviewed by the group. It was noted that we have some previously unknown money in a district fund. We can spend this money on district expenses such as printing, nutrition or bussing. The goal is to spend this money out in 2019. Andi made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Julie seconded the motion. The motion carried and the budget is approved as submitted.

The group reviewed the committee reports. The Hospitality chairs added that they are considering their options for staff cookies.

The group discussed the need for an online payment system for PTO. Sue has a meeting with the Foundation. Per Andi's recommendation, Stephanie will look at Rev Trak. Stephanie will also look into the expense of a web page designed for this purpose.

Brooke brought up the need to amend the Bylaws. The group agreed. Brooke will email the group and we are asked to review them and send Brooke your suggestions.

Sue & Brooke will be working on a Parent Career Network. Mr. Maxwell wants something developed so that speakers can be invited to give Encore presentations. A database would be developed and it could be shared with teachers.

Brooke asked us to think about future meeting topics. The topics of Grading Practices, Vaping & Counselor presentation were suggested.

Brooke says she will try to use Campus Messenger in addition to the school announcements in order to communicate about our meetings.

Brooke asks us to start thinking of suggestions for next year's roster to fill slots as people transition out.

Adjourned 11:55

Respectfully submitted.

Stephanie Horak
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings –

- November 14, 2019 – 11:00 AM – LRC *Followed by Parent Body Meeting at Noon*
- January 9, 2020 – 11:00 AM – LRC *Followed by Parent Body Meeting at Noon*
- April 9, 2020 – 11:00 AM – LRC *Followed by Parent Body Meeting at Noon*

Valley / Valley Southwoods PTO
Minutes of the Parent Body Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019 12:00 PM at the LRC

Present: Brooke Acheson, Christine Anderson, Julie Bebensee, Ronda Bern, Vimmi Bhargava, Mindy Borgstadt, Mindy Bylund, Maria Cervantes, Sarah Connolly, Jill Croft, Melinda Dunnwald, Ellen Elmore, Alicia Emanuel, Alicia Feldman, Sue Fisher, Jennifer Galloway, Courtney Greene, Kim Hicks, Stephanie Horak, Wendy Johnson, Saima Kamran, Mitch Kuhnert, Ruth Lerg, Andi Lipman, David Maxwell, Liz Nelson, Sarah Overton, Lisa Phillips, Laura Porter, Leslee Sheffield, Jan Shemirani, Jodi Stahl, Stephanie Trannel

Brooke called the meeting to order at 12:01.

Brooke explained that we are on Facebook Live today.

Brooke introduced Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Kuhnert.

Mr. Maxwell

- He is in his second year as principal at Valley after 13 years as an associate principal.
- He explained the new initiative “Tradition of the Tiger”
 - Respect, Responsibility and Kindness.
 - All kids have been informed on the importance of this new initiative.
- The Tiger Launch event was successful.
- Homecoming 2019, Sept 23-28
 - The theme is “Living on Cloud Nine.”
 - Monday is the PowderPuff Football Game
 - Thursday is the parade and carnival. Please note that the parade route is changing this year due to the fact that Valley Church is hosting a national conference.
 - Friday is the assembly and football game.
 - Saturday is the dance.

Mr. Kuhnert

- He is in his eighth year as principal of VSW.
- The partnership between VHS & VSW principals is vital.
- The Tradition of the Tiger is slightly different at VSW.
 - Thoughtfulness
 - Integrity
 - Gratefulness
 - Empathy
 - Respect
- VSW is using the PBIS Rewards App
 - There is a student, parent & staff app.
 - Families can donate incentive prizes. These donations must be handled through the PTO due to district policy about district employees handling donations.
- Oct 11 is the new date for the post-game pizza party & bonfire

- Canvas
 - Parents have access to Canvas through shadowing. More info will come on how to shadow.
 - Look for the parent version of the app.
 - Infinite Campus won't have up-to-date grade reporting. You must move to Campus to view current grade reporting.
 - Look for details in the "This is WDMCS" newsletter.

The group asked questions of the principals.

Q1: What are the privacy safeguards in PBIS because negative info about our kids may be contained in the app.

A1:

-Only minor incidents (such as tardies, anything dealt with at the teacher level) will go into the app.

-These incidents have never been tracked before and will provide useful data for purposes of prevention and restorative justice which will include the teacher.

-There are security measures in place to protect data.

-Major incidents are referred to administrators and not handled in the app.

Q2: How have the teachers responded to using the app?

A2: The app is easy to use. So far, so good.

Q3: How will substitutes use the app?

A3: They will have no access to the app, but can leave a note for the teacher.

Q4: When do we as parents learn more about Canvas?

A4:

-During the Oct 9 & 10 VSW Conferences, there will be instructional sessions on this topic.

-At VHS Conferences (Oct 1 & 3 Tiger Talks Conferences for kids & parents who need more time AND Oct 8 Snapshot Conferences for a quick chat), parents can ask teachers for advice.

-Video tutorials, podcasts, etc will be coming from the district in October.

-The September "This is WDMCS" has some info on it.

-There was also an Email, it was on the WDMCS app and on Facebook.

Q5: Is Infinite Campus going away?

A5: No it is still used for reporting to the state and other purposes, but won't be used for day-to-day current grade-keeping and reporting.

Q6: How did the on-line enrollment go?

A6:

-The district is happy with it.

-The VSW Open House needs to be spread over more days.

-80% of students were enrolled on-line before the first day of school.

-Next year information will be drawn into the system from this year, so not all of it will need to be re-entered.

Q7: Is there a way to transfer information in the enrollment system to other systems such as athletics?

A7: The district is working on it. They are open to suggestions. Mail to buckl@wdmcs.org

Q8: People are confused about FamilyID and what grades it applies to.

A8: It applies to Grade 8-12 athletes only.

Sue thanked the principals for their contribution. She says the PTO is working on a database of parent careers for the purpose of being a speaker at school during Encore periods. (Encore is a period that a student can spend different ways such as getting help, extended learning, hearing speakers.)

Adjourned 1:08 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Stephanie Horak
Secretary

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- January 9 – Noon – LRC
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