

**Valley / Valley Southwoods PTO**  
**Minutes of the General Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 14, 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 11:02.

Stephanie read the minutes from the September 12, 2019 General Council meeting. Brooke moved to approve the minutes. Julie seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes are approved.

Treasurer Ronda Bern passed out the budget report and the bank statement. These were reviewed by the group. After some discussion it was decided Brooke will remind Messrs. Maxwell & Kuhnert of their Principals' Funds.

The group discussed a request to help pay for the VSW Staff party to be held at Wobbly Boots in Clive. We declined to fund this.

The group reviewed the committee reports. Additionally

- the VHS Hospitality chairs reported that their conference dinners were successful. They are still thinking about their cookie options
- the VSW Hospitality chairs say they might bring in some cookie trays to the staff room.
- Alicia reports that student directories went out.

Work on the online payment needs has stalled, but after discussion, Stephanie will begin work on this again.

Brooke passed out Bylaws suggested revisions. She took several suggestions from the group. Beyond these suggestions, we are asked to review them in depth by November 30. On December 1, Brooke will make the final changes. Notice about the bylaws vote will be given and these will be voted on at a General Membership meeting.

Brooke reviewed roster updates.

There are no developments on the topic of a Parent Career Network.

We have received the WDMCS Brand Management agreement, but we are declining to sign it since we have nothing planned and we object to the concept in principle.

Andi & Alicia reported on their meeting with Mr. Kuhnert regarding VSW's controversial fundraising efforts. They report that with the exception of 10% of the money which will be spent on PBIS incentives, the money raised will stay with the class throughout their high school career. The fundraising technique (calling/texting from school without parent awareness) will not be repeated.

Adjourned 11:50

Respectfully submitted.

Stephanie Horak  
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings –

- 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, November 14, 2019 12:00 PM at the LRC**

*Present: Brooke Acheson, Julie Bebensee, Mindy Borgstadt, Sarah Connolly, Jill Croft, Ellen Elmore, Alicia Emanuel, Sue Fisher, Kim Hicks, Stephanie Horak, Loree Horn, Nikki Johnson, Sam Kamran, Karen Kuster, Marie Lane, Ruth Lerg, Andi Lipman, Alissa McCree, Liz Nelson, Sarah Overton, Vimal Patel, Jodi Stahl, Katie Stanhope, Rajal Vjas, June Yuan,*

Sue welcomed all guests and speakers: Lisa Remy, WDMCS Superintendent; Mike Sherman, WDMCS Director of Data Management; Greg Hudson, history teacher at Valley High School and of Community Ed ACT prep sessions; Jenn Rathje, DMACC advisor to Valley High School; Eric Traynor, MacKenzie Gersdorf and Tony Wieland, Valley High School Counselors.

Dr. Remy explained the district has goals that upon graduation:

1. Each student should be ready for post-secondary education. (*Identified by Academic Indicators and Standardized Test Benchmarks.*)
2. Each student should be ready for careers. (*Student has selected a career interest area and meets two other benchmarks*)
3. Each student should be ready for life. (*Meets selected benchmarks*)

These benchmark details can be found on the WDMCS web site.

Mr. Hudson discussed pre-college testing and the differences between the ACT and the SAT.

- The Science section is the biggest difference between the two tests.
- The SAT questions are harder.
- PSAT purpose is exclusively for the National Merit Scholarship.
- Testing has two purposes – Admission and Scholarships.
- In 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring – students should take Feb, April or June ACT Test
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - work your tail off. This is the year that shows up on applications.
- In 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall – Applications due and final ACT test.
- Mr. Hudson has an 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade timeline PowerPoint. Contact him for the PowerPoint. [HUDSONG@WDMCS.ORG](mailto:HUDSONG@WDMCS.ORG)
- All juniors will take the ACT at Valley on Feb 25 for free.

Ms. Rathje discussed the ways students can earn DMACC credits while at Valley.

- She comes to Valley every Thursday and works out of the Counseling office.
- She can answer questions about college more broadly than just DMACC.

Mr. Traynor discussed counseling office efforts to prepare students.

- Students should have a 4-year plan.
- There are presentation links on various topics on the Counseling web page.
- March 31 at 5:30 there will be a College Planning Night for Freshman, Sophomore and Junior families.

- Parents are encouraged to use the Naviance tool available on the counseling web page.

Ms. Gersdorf and Mr. Wieland say their College Planning Presentation will be offered two times in the winter & spring.

Printed copies of the Valley course catalogs will be available in the counseling offices. It is also available online.

Respectfully submitted.

Stephanie Horak  
Secretary

Upcoming Meetings

- January 9 – Noon – LRC
- April 9 – Noon - LRC