



March 11, 2025 Minutes

In Attendance:

Board: Chrissy Greer, Mimi Johnson, George Sisson, Joseph Clark, Renee Deschard, Maggie Brickerman, Colleen Ott, Adam Gratch

MMSD/VHE Staff: Becca Stein, Amy Sheridan (MMSD), Lisa Friend-Kalupa, Sally Ludwig

Additional Community Members including Parents and Staff

Online: 8+

In-person: 10+

Call to order

A meeting of the VHE PTO was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chrissy Greer.

New business

- Grants Approval
 - Three Grants from teachers, plus one from the PTO for a popcorn maker
 - Popcorn maker would be used for school/classroom events and for fundraisers
 - **Grants were approved for the teachers**
 - **PTO grants was approved provisionally pending a donated popcorn maker**
 - Prez will communicate back to teachers that their grants are approved
- Q3 Pulse Survey Reminder
 - The survey will be sent out on 3/12.
 - Encourage people to fill it out.
 - Results are reviewed and changes have been implemented as a result
- Volunteer Needs
 - Carnival: volunteers needed for setup/takedown and running the games. Request is out now for volunteer signup
 - Makers Fair: Looking for individuals to help with planning, securing artists and running the event
 - Maggie and Colleen will help organize but need support

- Hedgestock: looking for Parents to help plan alongside “Specials Teachers”
- Field Day: Scheduled for June 6, rain date is June 10. Will need parent support on the day of.
- Board Elections (4/8)
 - Looking for individuals to step into the Secretary position, volunteer coordinator as well as co-president

Miscellaneous

- 5th Grade Just Coffee Fundraiser - Made over \$900
- George put a call out for those that have any suggestions for Budget items for next FY
- **Trivia Night at Delta Beer Lab** - Parents Night Out to help fundraise for 5th grade end of the year field trip (May 2 or 3)
- **Parents Night Out** - Looking to plan a parents night out at Odana Golf Course to encourage parents to get to know one another. Recommended \$25 donation

Advanced Learning presented by Amy Sheridan and Lisa Friend-Kalupa

Following the presentation the floor was opened up for questions and conversation

- **What great level does the Beast Academy Math Service get used for?** 1st & 2nd Grade has some students that are doing in on paper/pencil.
- **There have been changes in the past few years, does that mean that kids are no longer changing classrooms to meet these needs?** Correct, these changes are not just VHE specific.
- **How can parents help support?** Volunteer in the classroom if you are able
- **Does each school in MMSD only have a part-time person?** Yes, most have .5, some only have .3. While this is Lisa’s role at VHE, we have other professionals in the school that help support AL.
- **How many kids qualify as AL at Van Hise?** Support proceeds identification. About ⅓ of VHE kids are accessing AL at one point
- **How does communication work to Parents if their kid is getting additional support?** Communication is a bit behind this year. Communication likely will come through the teacher. Not from Lisa since she does not directly give support to the students. Trying to meet interests and strengths.

- **Are 5th graders still going to Van Hise for 6th grade math?** They are not if they only need single level acceleration but if they need more than one level they are.
- Desire from parents to have a summary to understand what all of these programs are and what they are called.
- Most of the AL support is not happening in Kindergarten due to capacity.
- Talk of hosting more informative sessions in the beginning of the year to be proactive with sharing this information with parents. Parents find this information super helpful.

Minutes approved by Van Hise PTO Board on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.