

11/14/23 VHE PTO Meeting Minutes

School Updates/Discussion:

- Waukesha Parking Enforcement Concerns
 - Many families received \$40 parking tickets in the past couple of weeks. Signage is not clear. The sign states that for the drop off loading area, the driver must be with the car. Some were not with the vehicle, but at least one parent received a ticket when she walked around the car to unlock her child's door. The officers did not talk to the parents, just sent a ticket in the mail. Certain areas of Waukesha allow NO parking (in the intersection). Ms Stein has reached out to police to ask for clarification. A parent noted that the parking rules disproportionately affect the families with the youngest children in the school who are required to meet on the playground to pick up their children.
 - Adam Gratch will follow up city parking enforcement and others as needed to clarify what the current rules are.
- School report card came out today. Van Hise received a rating of Significantly exceeds expectations (five stars). Score summary of 94.4. Overall score for MMSD as a district was Meets expectations (3 stars).
- Joseph: Wondering what is happening with the hole by the playground stairs? Currently has a blue cone on it.
- Trash was picked up during garden work day.
- Melissa: Do we need more helpers for recess duty? Can HS school age kids help supervise?

PTO Fall Grants

- (Ian, Treasurer) Grants are available 2 times a year fall and spring \$5000 per semester. All staff in school are eligible to apply. They complete a simple application form on the PTO website. Then it's cleared with the principal that there aren't other funding sources available and that it's not being duplicated elsewhere in the school. PTO members present at the meeting can vote. Requests tend to be \$300-500 up to \$1000. Teachers also have access to stipends for the year from PTO, \$100 support, \$200 for class teachers, \$500 for specials teachers.

There are 7 applications this fall for a total of \$5913.

Fall Grant Requests 2023 - November 14 Meeting

- Powell noise reduction headphones for classroom
- Krum \$500 for building classroom library. Previously a math room, so not many books available.
- Follett, Librarian: \$495 for special shelving that makes books more accessible for kids.
- Kinder team: \$2820 to help pay for approved field trips for the remainder of this year.
- \$375 Duerr headphones for the library REACH
- Jimenez flexible seating \$507 Becca supports these changes
- 3rd grade dictionaries \$496.44
- Dawn Lawler-health needs (range of flesh colored bandaids, snacks, extra clothes) needs can be met through stipend or donations
- Tatro/Gamez \$550 for building a 3rd grade classroom library

Discussion:

- Mimi: Would it be appropriate to set a precedent for new teachers to get a stipend for starting a library. How about ongoing smaller stipends for all teachers?
- Field trips:
 - Mimi: Bus quadrupled in price since they planned them. Is this a price we feel comfortable with paying? Would it make sense to have a line item in the budget for field trip support?
 - Melissa T.: Are parent carpools allowed?
 - Mimi: We don't have the details about specifics from teachers. We could ask for more details/itemized budget before making a decision.
 - Ian: This doesn't feel like a unique problem. Do other schools get field trips subsidized somehow? Could MMSD provide more funding? There is a maximum amount that teachers are allowed to ask MMSD students to pay for field trips annually.
 - Andrea: Concerned about equity of supporting that much for just one grade and sustainability of making it an ongoing PTO cost. Why aren't city buses an option for MMSD students for field trips? That would be a more affordable/sustainable option.
 - Joseph: Could a field trip be done outside of class as a class rep social activity so parents provide transportation?
 - Other: Who pays for this now? Are teachers planning enough in advance?
- Can we adjust so that both Krum and Tatro get the same amount?
- Jimenez seating: make sure they are approved by MMSD safety and won't be removed.

Mimi suggested we table the Kindergarten field trip grant to gather additional information and answer questions raised to re-evaluate at the December meeting. The remaining grants were considered based on the feedback.

Joseph moves to approve the remaining grants, Larisa seconds. Vote passes unanimously.

Announcements:

- Parents' Night Out Dec 8, 5-8pm: Run by the staff of K and 3rd grade this year. Space limited. Registration forms came home with kids this week.
- Save the Date for the Carnival: **April 26**. Looking for volunteers for committees: games, prizes, raffle fundraising, design/decoration. Sign up Genius will be available. Contact Adam Gratch (adamjgratch@gmail.com)
- NYE Party/All School Dance in January 19 (tentative date)
- Mr Lynch would like to shift Arts and Crafts Fair to be a Festival of the Arts exhibition style event with music and art later in May. If anyone feels strongly about ALSO having the arts and crafts fair and would like to take on organizing it, please contact prez@vanhisepto.org.
- Green Space/VHE Gardening: Maggie Lamphear reports that they had a successful clean up event on Saturday. Please contact her or Ms Ford (emford@madison.k12.wi.us) if you would like to join in with planning future activities.

- Class gifts for staff and teachers coming up. Class reps can stay afterwards for a discussion about class lists, gifts, and community building activity ideas. Andrea Olson (andrea@lordolson.us) Class rep coordinator
- Yearbook: Previous years we had a parent volunteer who did most of the work, but her child is in middle school now. Don't currently have a parent volunteer. We're looking for students to help. Wondered if 5th graders want to help with teacher lead? Working on finding a teacher to help and allow the group to use their room afterschool. Lynch may be willing to support but not lead. Needs to be a VHE staff member in order to have space and a badge for access and safety. It could be an afterschool class. Might be able to complete some of it during class time but probably not all.
- Afterschool classes will be up after Thanksgiving for winter/spring session. Contact Joseph Clark if you have questions josephdclark@gmail.com ..

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Andrea Olson, Secretary.