



## February 11, 2025 Minutes

### In Attendance:

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

Becca Stein

7+ Additional Community Members including Parents and Staff

## Call to order

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

## Reports

- Treasurer's report on finances:
  - (Insert slides)
  - Direct Appeal "officially" closed; is always open
    - Historically raise between \$10-12,000 (\$12,000 anticipated in budget)
    - Last year only raised \$4K; coincided with Kids Heart Challenge
    - This year raised \$8K
  - Renee has been setting up extra restaurant weeks, events like Madtown Twisters open gym, Qdoba
  - Still have \$40,000 in the playground fund; can utilize for some items like Rooted and other gardening/green spaces activities
  - \$10,000 in a CD accruing interest

## New business

- Pulse Survey
  - [Slides](#)
  - Decreases in the number of responses - 49 total
  - Numbers did not change much from the first to the second survey
  - Comments trends
    - Communications
      - Discussion around sending paper home vs. electronic communications
      - Question around use of texting technology for communications
      - Becca shared that Van Hise is moving to a new platform (school messenger is not easy) called Parent Square

- PTO Board will explore creating a google calendar/iCal feed for families to subscribe to with events and important dates
  - Reminder to discontinue use of acronyms
  - Continued discussion and exploration about language access/barriers
- Curriculum
  - Concerns about the shift from grouping based on skill level to having everyone in the same room
  - Questions about advanced learning.
  - Question about Rooted - why is that only available to one grade?
    - Local organization that helps developing hands on garden/environmental learning.
    - We provide \$5K to have a staff person in the fall and spring for 16 weeks (approx).
    - At least five in MMSD have partnered with Rooted.
    - Just kinder at Van Hise.
  - Set topics to add to PTO agenda, promote in advance
    - Advanced Learning/Differentiation - how does it fit into the equity goals
    - 504 assessment, IEPs
    - Social emotional learning
  - Can we get more updates from specials teachers?
    - Shout out to Mr. Lynch for his regular updates
    - There is a place where teachers can “drop” information - “school news.”
- Climate + culture
  - What is the PTO’s role in supporting that? Might be something to explore.
  - Budget, what are we recognizing by funding it?
- Upcoming events
  - MMSD Board Member Q&A - 2/25
  - Mental health first aid scheduling in progress
  - Learning Differences Group -
    - March 18 - Special Ed-101; open to anyone in the community; two guest speakers from the district
    - April 22- Mental health services, school and community supports; guest speakers from the district
- Ongoing volunteer opportunities -
  - Recess!
  - Lunch!
- Board nominating in April
- Becca provided school updates -
  - Read Your Heart Out is Friday
    - Kickoff assembly

- Middle school students are integrated into the assembly, reading a book
  - Chanel, Kari Meyer working with Becca
- Bunch of field trips
  - 2-3rd - February 19th
  - 5K - walking field trip on February 25
- Second (and last) lockdown drill coming on February 20
- February 21st is a no staff day - professional development day for staff
- Shattered window in the breezeway
  - Kids came running out, hit the door, door swung and broke on the card reader
  - Had someone here immediately to make sure it's taped/cones
  - Door/window being replaced. Also looking at the spring suspension because it's a wind tunnel between the two spaces.

*Respected submitted by*

*Date*