

## 3/12/24 VHE PTO Meeting

Introductions from all present

### **Becca's update:**

- Thank you for a great glow dance! Great attendance and lots of fun to see so many people after school.
- This week the staff is working on dismissal procedures. Improving how they account for where students are going and making that less chaotic. Checking off at the arrival location to ensure everyone is there. Please reach out to the office if your current plan is different from what you shared at the beginning of the year to update your dismissal plans.
- Planning for spring/next fall.
  - Dates are being finalized soon by staff members leading those activities.
  - Next year's MMSD academic year calendar is NOW available.
  - VHE Classroom assignments:
    - Becca shared a form to provide feedback about your learner to support more heterogeneous groupings in classrooms. Forms available at the meeting and online and they are due April 12 to the office.
    - Becca would like to balance the classes more for next year with less emphasis on grouping based on support staff needs (e.g., IEPs, ELL, etc.)
    - They'll start working on class lists this spring but won't be able to finalize until the week before school since that is when enrollment closes for MMSD schools.
    - You may share requests about desired peers to your current teachers. They may not necessarily be followed but they try to pair with at least one preferred peer. They also ask students which 10-15 peers that they learn well with when making groups.
  - Spring Transition day: On May 10 all classes will rotate through the teacher's classrooms in the next grade. Becca is working with Principal Mou if we can do something for incoming 6th graders.
    - There will also be vertical team meetings on May 24 where Kinder teachers will meet with 1st grade teachers, 1st with 2nd, etc. to ensure that families aren't feeling like they are starting over each year.
    - Another Vertical meeting is scheduled August 2 and there will also be individual meetings for scholars and families with teachers (i.e., Ready, Set, Go conferences).

Questions from parents with Becca's answers:

### **What is helpful/not helpful feedback for the form?**

- Becca: Please share your child's socio-emotional needs and traits and interests. Most things would be helpful in general. She will often say, "I can't guarantee a placement but

I'm listening to what you're saying." We also need to consider cohort needs in placement.

**Why are you changing how we do classroom assignments at VHE?**

- Becca: Creating classrooms with heterogeneous learners for more equitable. Not all ELL or IEP students will be grouped together. The allotment of cross-categorical teachers is determined by attendance on the 3rd Friday of September. When determining staffing shifts we need to balance established relationships and caseload sizes for support staff. We always try to minimize disruptions. The way that the class lists in the past didn't work (e.g., asking for a specific teacher or requesting/not requesting certain students.) Usually the classroom group is the most impactful versus which particular teacher your student has.

**Who will be involved in deciding class lists this year?**

- Becca: Classroom teachers, specials teachers, support staff, and multi-lingual staff.

**Do you know what allocations you will have for next year?**

- Becca: Yes, we were able to balance the budget with 3 sections per grade with 22-25 students. 30 students is typically the maximum/class allowed by the district. The main classroom teachers will stay in their current grade levels/positions. Becca will be meeting with district level staff to check in about their plan and other factors like student teachers, etc.

**Are you aware of upcoming increases in attendance for VHE based on new developments in the neighborhood?**

- Becca: We are up 10 students now but overall not seeing a large increase at the moment. The building would likely not be able to accommodate many additional students.
- Shannon S's response: Randall Elementary is feeling that squeeze right now and it would be good to keep an eye on it

Becca apologized for the late notice about the planning lockdown. She thought that the district would send out an email ahead of time. She will send something out sooner next time to allow families to make decisions and process/prepare as needed. You can tell if you get an email from Becca directly because it's signed Becca, whereas district emails are signed Rebecca. Drill went very well.

Becca asked if you have feedback, to please reach out to her directly to partner together on issues and concerns.

**Spring Grants:** Total budget allowed=\$5000

1. REACH: STEAM/Maker Space re-supply \$300
2. PE \$800 Replacement of old rollerblading equipment
3. Lost and Found: Organizational items to store for later use e.g., Coat racks.

Motion to approve grant proposals by Renee Deschard/Seconded by Nicole Schmies

**Passed by unanimous vote.**

The PTO gave \$4600 for book stipends which is \$200 for each classroom and special teachers. Two teachers submitted their orders within 3 hours! The teachers are very grateful for this resource!

**Volunteer opportunities** <https://www.vanhisepto.org/volunteering>

- Ongoing: Cafeteria and playground duty

**Upcoming Events:**

- Garden cleanup: Sunday, April 21 and May 19 is planting day. Garden/Green Spaces Team is looking into piping water to the gardens for easier watering this spring/summer.
- Carnival: April 26: stay for the second half of the meeting to help with some planning details/decision making. Email **Adam Gratch** at [events@vanhisepto.org](mailto:events@vanhisepto.org).
- Maker's Faire on May 4. Kids come and make things at art stations for teacher appreciation week (e.g., Make cards, vases, etc.)
- May Teacher Appreciation week May 6-10.
  - Ena has solicited food and services for teachers from local businesses. Thank you, Ena!
  - PTO will also be asking grade levels to help fill in volunteer roles for certain activities during the week (e.g., chalking the walk, delivering thank you notes and flowers, etc.).
- Hedgestock: Wednesday, May 22. Late afternoon all-school music concert and early evening art show, STEM and library activities, and ice cream social. Being organized by the specials teachers and Ena Lee.
- Field Day May 31 (tentative)
- Mallards Game on Monday, June 3. Free tickets for VHE students.
- Graduations: Kindergarten June 3, 5th grade June 6th.
- Incoming Kindergarten Orientation Date TBD. Becca will check with Kindergarten staff.

**Fundraising:** <https://www.vanhisepto.org/news-events>

- Math workbooks: Volunteer(s) would facilitate getting orders and distributing to students.
- School supplies: Megan Reed can do this summer and would like to mentor someone for next summer. Volunteer would collect orders and organize a few volunteers to sort supplies and deliver them to the classrooms.
- Bucky Books (summer/Fall): Work with vendor to set up a sale for Van Hise (late/summer early fall)
- Recurring Restaurant night (summer + all year)

**Next meeting, Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30pm**

- PTO board elections: Still looking for a new **Communications** and **Secretary** for next year!
- The second half will be a Class Rep appreciation event!

Notes taken by Andrea Olson.