

VHE PTO Meeting 12/12/23

(See VHE PTO website for sign ups and additional information at <https://www.vanhisepto.org/>)

Updates from Becca

- School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - Goals include
 - Increasing literacy and math proficiency rates for all students
 - increasing math and literacy achievement for students of color
 - Improved attendance
 - Improved culture and climate building
 - Changes since last year
 - Plan to focus on growth goals to better serve our students of color
 - Using new software for goal tracking
 - Increased the number and type of staff on the school leadership team
- New schedule for all grade levels starting 1/3/24
 - New lunch and recess times because the lunch room is too crowded when middle school and elementary are in there at the same time. This schedule allows for VHE students to have lunch room to themselves. Two recesses for all grades (30 min lunch and 15 min). Mondays are unique due to the middle school schedule. Lunch will be shorter. If students eat an early lunch then they will have an afternoon snack.
 - This schedule provides a common prep time for teachers to collaborate and increases prep time for the teachers.
 - Classes will have specials at the same time each day.
 - ELI curriculum multidisciplinary time will allow for staff to provide additional support to students.
 - Advanced learning math is still available for 2-5 grade.
 - This schedule prioritizes the core curriculum with a tradeoff of an unpreferred work schedule for the specials teachers. They are still working out when 5th grade strings will be scheduled but it will not be cut.

PTO Updates:

- Fall Grants Update:
 - All grants approved except Kindergarten field trip funds last month. PTO board received additional information and determined that their request was reasonable and within their portion of the total grant amount for their grade. PTO recommended to approve the grant as proposed and that passed.
- Direct appeal/Fundraising
 - Still waiting on some match checks but around \$5600 donated so far towards the \$10,000 goal. Ian thought this was a good outcome for a year where there is not a big ticket project to fund and the PTO fund is financially healthy for this year's budget plans.

- PTO board noted that the AHA Kid's Heart Challenge coincided during the direct appeal and may have negatively influenced PTO giving.
- The link will continue to be open if others want to donate.
- Black Belt America fundraiser for a Family Night Out gave a check for around \$2400 to the VHE PTO. Shake Shack fundraiser has been \$150-200 per month.
- PTO Recruitment
 - CURRENT NEED: Treasurer
 - Looking for a Nominating committee to help us find current Treasurer and Secretary, and Communications for next year
- Volunteers Needed
 - Playground/lunch room volunteers.
 - Will hopefully add some classroom volunteer opportunities next semester.
- Spring Events Updates:
 - Carnival Friday, April 26. Committee sign up is available for games, raffle, check newsletter from PTO.
 - Other future events, dates yet to be confirmed
 - Glow dance (planning for January)
 - 1-2 open gyms at VHE
- Teacher Appreciation Activities
 - Class reps are coordinating class gifts for teachers and staff this month. PTO will provide gifts for any remaining staff members.
 - Just Coffee fundraiser: Working on online and paper forms for ordering. The proceeds will go toward teacher appreciation activities.
 - Teacher appreciation in May: Ena found a connection for providing chair massages for staff.
- After School class registration December 11-18.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Notes by Andrea Olson