VSPA Executive Meeting, Oct 15th

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 12:35pm

2. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: Amina Sakrani, Lorella Berard, Girja Patel, Debbie Marty, Katherine Brewer, Kim Healey, David Randolph, Anh Moll, Rebecca Treherne, Tanya Macedo, Kelley Reid, Vivian Yeh, Paola Levenhagen

3. Approve last minutes: Girja - motion to approve the minutes, Amina seconded, all approved

4. New Business

   a. Emergency Procedures during rainstorm: The decision on whether to close school is complex - Village does not align with HISD; they need to consider multiple schools in a lot of areas. Whereas at Village we have a weather information system on the roof - we also have direct access to meteorologists, and thus accurate weather reports. The biggest rainfall that day was to happen during school 1pm, and should have let up 3pm, it ended up subsiding at 3:45. The afternoon of the rain, the school was prepping FLIC to prepare more food in case parents couldn’t pick up. Children were completely safe at school, and staff and teachers will always wait in this type of situation until every child is picked up. That is the technical safety aspect. Parents always have the option to pick up their children early if they need to based on their unique family needs, specific neighbourhoods, route to return, etc. From the school’s perspective, children need to be in school a certain number of days for accreditation. Additionally, the school reserves the right to cancel school right up until the morning of that day. The next day was clear, so school was not canceled. In the future, SMS communication in addition to email will be sent out to families on whatever is happening - e.g. cancelling school or ACE. Additionally there will be a new information session for new families about safety and other emergency procedures during many situations including inclement weather, beginning of second semester

   b. International Food Festival - many performances are in place, trying to keep them all to 10 min slots, lots of volunteers, kids and adults; kids will help to unload cars and set up and work at passport check out desk; adults will work at the ticket sales, checking bracelets and supply restocking. Would like Catherine to be recognized at the end of the event. Confusion with March of Nations - Parents get to watch, kids will go with country groups, everyone wears country colors.

   c. 2020/2021 School Calendar - potential fall break is being considered, it would just mean one additional day, high school graduation 4pm, can high school trips be all during the same week, so kids in different level classes
don’t lose partners. PD days not next to homecoming so that kids who are visiting colleges don’t have to wait until after the dance to leave

d. Clarification on fundraising - parents vs. school, e.g. FunRun - history - some of our sports teams win games, then it is more travel. Money raised will go into 3 buckets, elementary, whatever they need; fine arts; and athletic trips.

e. Fine arts parent group information gathering - parent coffee was great, newsletter was released, new thing for teachers to promote and post about fine arts events. FOFA outing coming up - to get more parents involved.

f. PALS - Cultural Ambassador Country Information - Ask people if they would like to be paired with someone from a certain country, and if they are ok with their information being shared.

5. AOB
IFF passport passed around.
sponsorships for specific events - so a company would sponsor something - a ride at an event, and there will be a sign next to the ride stating that this company has sponsored that ride e.g. SHELL has sponsored this train ride. Will sponsors be happy with signage, or FB messages.

Tanya made a motion to go forward with sponsorship, Girja seconds the motion, total in favor 9, against 1

6. Adjournment : 2:38pm

Next Meeting
Tuesday, December 17th, 2019
Leadership Conference Room