

VSPA General Meeting

Minutes

December 2, 2015

Meeting Called By: Sara Lou

Type of Meeting: VSPA General Meeting

Facilitator: Sara Lou

Time Keeper: Andy Schofield

Note Taker: Andy Schofield

8.30 am

MS Learning Commons

Attendees: 18 parent members in attendance

Agenda Topics

Welcome

Sara L

Discussion: Sara L welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8.30 am. Oromeni O made a motion to approve the minutes from General Meeting on September 23, 2015. Pat G seconded and the minutes passed with a unanimous vote. Sara L outlined the purpose of VSPA and presented outline of the committee.

Budget & Funding approval

Sara L

Discussion: The VSPA budget for 2015-2016 was presented. Two items were noted: 1) an expenditure of \$1,000 for the Village School mascot; 2) an expenditure of \$11,000 to support the initiation of the new Village School scholarship program (headed by Shandy Moore). This expenditure included the cost to fund the initial set-up of the scholarship program (including the opportunity to use PayPal system). This scholarship program is designed to offer support of tuition fees for existing VS families. The donation from VSPA is a ONE-TIME only expenditure, as the scholarship program is expected to be self-sustainable in the future.

Shandy Moore was present at the meeting and gave an overview of the scholarship program. The VSPA funding would enable the scholarship program to go ahead for January 2016, to benefit existing VS families. Assistance sought from the scholarship program would be on a financial needs basis and families would have to be existing VS families or families who are already processed by admissions. The proposed scholarship program is a separate initiative to the existing VS financial assistance program.

There was some concern from parents about the use of VSPA to fund activities that only appeared to benefit a small proportion of the community. The VSPA committee is mindful, however, of all funding requests and tries to maintain a global inclusion of the entire community and the benefit throughout all school divisions.

VSPA Activities

Sara L

Community building events: New parent-led groups include movie club, wine club and Sunday soccer club (due to start in January 2016). Parents night out for Middle School and High School. Playdate picnic for Early Childhood & Elementary.

Fundraising events: The Fall Festival will be a Winter Carnival this year; due to be held on December 6, 2015. Other fundraising activities include magazine sale and Box Tops.

Staff appreciation: Staff appreciation lunches/ breakfasts will be held in all divisions (Early Childhood & Elementary combined, Middle School and High School). Further staff appreciation events will be held in May 2016.

Liaison: The non-existence of the playground for Early Childhood, on the Finna site, was raised. It was noted that the school is awaiting for permit approval before playground construction can commence.

Guest Speaker

MS 150 VS cycle team

Discussion: A group of High School students gave an overview of the MS 150 cycle fundraising event. This is a 150 mile cycle event from Houston to Austin and will take place on April 16-17, 2016. The Village School cycle team raised \$18,000 last year. To enter for the bike ride, each participant must raise a minimum of \$400. In 2015, the MS 150 bike ride event raised about \$20 million to help support research towards multiple sclerosis. For every \$1 raised, 81 cents goes towards research. Last year, the Village School MS 150 team consisted of 25 students, mostly High School students. If participants are aged under 16 years they must be accompanied on the bike ride by an adult.

Conclusions: The MS150 Village School staff co-ordinator is Ms. Collyer. The MS150 Village School student contact is Abrish Sabri. The students made a request for three items:

- 1) donations towards fundraising (for participant registration and also for costs of tents – the event takes place over 2 days, so an overnight stop is required);
- 2) parent volunteers to help transport bikes to the start line and bring back from finish line; and
- 3) volunteers to join the Village School MS150 bike team.

Anyone interested in the event can contact Abrish Sabri at asabri@s.thevillageschool.com

Guest Speaker

Ms. Cleminson

Discussion: Ms. Cleminson, a Middle School teacher, gave a presentation illustrating an example of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in the classroom. The example related to teaching history to 5th grade. It was an example of teaching about ancient Egypt, specifically about mummification. In the past, teaching was centered on students reading about the topic and also watching videos about mummification. An example of incorporating PBL into the classroom now introduced a practical element – the mummification of chickens!!! This creative example was reinforced with the previous learning system of the students reading about the topic and being able to demonstrate comprehension and understanding of the process.

Adjournment

Discussion: Pat G made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Liz G seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9.50 am.