

VSPA General Meeting #4

Minutes

March 30, 2016

8:30am

MS Cafeteria

Meeting Called By: Sara Lou

Type of Meeting: VSPA General Meeting

Facilitator: Sara Lou

Time Keeper: Krista Jewett

Note Taker: Krista Jewett

Attendees: Ainhoa B., Krista J., Liz G., Pat G., Sara L., Vivian Y., Winanda N. on behalf of VSPA plus 19 parents.

Agenda Topics

Introduction & Establish Quorum

Sara

Discussion: Sara welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was called to order at 8:35am. A quorum was established with the presence of 26 people at the meeting, including 7 from the committee. Sara L. made a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 27 meeting, Ainhoa B. and Winanda N. seconded and the minutes passed with a unanimous vote.

Sara L. explained the 3 sign-up sheets on the table: Facebook Group, Westside Family Day and Gala tickets.

Sara L. re-iterated VSPA's purpose: 1. Build a strong sense of community 2. Support the school's educational and social objectives 3. Act as liaison between parents and school administration 4. Fundraise for "extras" that benefit all students

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Admin

Presentation of 2016-17 VSPA Candidates

Sara & Pat

Discussion: The current Executive Committee and the incoming Candidates were introduced. Sara L. mentioned that she is excited about the committee for next year and is glad we have a good variety of children's ages represented on the committee. Pat mentioned the process that the nominating committee went through. Sara L. made a motion to vote on the slate of candidates. Pat G. and Wendy T. seconded.

Sara L. re-iterated that we are a small group of volunteers, the VP's are responsible for activities, so get involved if you can! Just contact the VP's to volunteer.

VSPA 2015-16 Financial Report		Vivian
<p>Discussion: Unchanged since 2 months ago. Teacher funding expenses from 2 years ago has now hit accrual. The budget is on the VSPA website, we are happy to share.</p>		
Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

VSPA Activities

Community Building Events		Sara
<p>Discussion: We have a couple of community building events coming up: the Dynamo game and Westside Family Day. At the Dynamo game, our soccer team will be on the field for the national anthem.</p> <p>VSPA is here to help build community and to do a little fundraising (passive) as well as to support school objectives.</p> <p>PALS: Contact Ainhoa B. to be a new PALS. The goal is to connect parents with kids of similar ages and nationalities and to even stay in touch over the summer. Facebook is also a good way to stay in touch over the summer.</p>		
Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Fundraising Events		Sara
<p>Discussion: The Village School Gala is coming up on Saturday, April 2 and there are a few tickets left.</p>		
Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Staff Appreciation		Sara
<p>Discussion: No discussion.</p>		
Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Discussion:

Updates to the campus since last meeting:

Village is fully funded and has picked a contractor for the track, which will begin construction after the last lacrosse game. It will be a competitive track with shot put, long and high jump, etc.

The sale lease-back is coming to a close.

There is a small group involved in designing the new MS Hybrid Complex starting at the beginning of May. We are fully funded for this 3.5 year project in place of the 2 dormitories, which will include a 4-court gym, locker rooms, training rooms, MS classrooms and a performing arts centre. The goal is to maximize the space we have. Need to decide on covered or uncovered pool (50m pool). A covered one allows for competition all year round. The designs will be rolled out at the final town hall meeting of this term.

Village needs to figure out how to keep up construction with minimal disruption in the next school year. People need to think about facilities open during the summer if they have any events happening.

The summer capital budget of \$1.8MM has been approved. This includes a MS digital upgrade – this is a big improvement. There will be devices (iPad) for every child in the school.

Gabriella R. will talk to teachers, VSPA, students and parents about what will be happening. Gabriella R. loves Village because the parents and VSPA are really engaged.

Middle School Flex Time/Space:

Sara L. talked to parents about solutions and worked with Kim H. and the MS on implementation. There are challenges with the lunch schedule, burning energy, space, time, budget, staffing. The building doesn't fit the population, but the campus is changing soon.

Current solution is to put basketball hoops across the street, gym equipment, flex space on the roof with patio furniture and shade sails. The roof is a bit dangerous, so has to be supervised and will be a quiet space. The fields across the street are already too busy with the ES and HS, we are already maximizing space.

Cindy P. and Barbara E. are working at improving the lunch schedule for next year. Lunch time is also used for make-up work, clubs, etc., so a lot of staff are tied up with that. Kim H. says that staffing is the biggest issue so kids will be spread out throughout the day. Kaye D. asked if we could use parent volunteers to help.

Maybe The Village needs to certify volunteers in general and make them accountable to show up each time. It would be great to have volunteers regularly in the ES, 5th and 6th as well (but maybe not 7th and 8th, as the kids want more privacy). Texas State do not have regulations on this and no FBI clearance is necessary if volunteers are spending a minimal amount of time in the school. Village may do a background check, especially of unsupervised volunteers. Oromeni O. mentioned that volunteers like to be there when their kids are there.

Wendy T. or L. asks, are we making sure that the new plans will incorporate the new ideas? Won't this MS building we are in now need an elementary-aged playground built? As we are across the street from the new Hybrid Complex, can the ES use that? We want parents to be involved in the process and need to make sure that we won't need to make short-term solutions in the future.

Gabriella R. wants parents to show up to meetings to design the building. Kim H. wants to talk to parents about it as well.

The outdoor space is happening right now! Volunteers are needed to supervise. Crossing guards have been set-up, gates closed behind kids. Parents have been trained – no cell phones; treat all children equally; be an educator, not a parent to your child; know the protocols, like no kids wandering over to the campus store. Kids will have rules too. There are no liability issues personally, as it will be the school's responsibility. Will also have a staff member outside.

CPR training – Village will not be training volunteers for CPR, but CPR training is available for any parent in the school each year (designated time once/year).

Oromeni O. asks, can we just put this all on hold until next year, as it will all change? Gabriella iterates that it is spring fever and the kids just need to get outside. We will learn a lot from this experience if we do this now. It is an affordable and temporary solution.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

General Discussion

Gabriella

Discussion: For a nice, heart-felt story, one of the 3rd graders wrote a book called The Unlucky Dragon. A 7th grader narrated it, 3rd-7th graders illustrated it, great collaboration between students. It is a story about a knight and a dragon.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Adjournment

Adjournment

Discussion: Pat G. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Oromeni O. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28am.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 8:30am in the MS Cafeteria.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline: