

VSPA General Meeting #3

Minutes

January 27, 2016

8:30am

MS Learning Commons

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., Andy S., Krista J., Liz G., Pat G., Sara L., Vivian Y., Winanda N. on behalf of VSPA plus 22 parents.

Agenda Topics

Introduction & Establish Quorum

Sara

Discussion: Sara welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was called to order at 8:34am. A quorum was established with the presence of 30 people at the meeting. Michele H. noticed a typo in the minutes from General Meeting #2 on December 2, 2015. Pat G. made a motion to approve the minutes after revision. Winanda N. seconded and the minutes passed with a unanimous vote.

Action Items:

Person Responsible:

Deadline:

VSPA 101

Sara

Discussion: We have a slate of candidates for the 2016-17 VSPA Executive Committee. We are a small group of volunteers who are not an activist board, but we are here to listen to parents, support parents and support the school.

Sara introduced the current Executive Committee and re-iterated VSPA's purpose. Our purpose is four-fold:

- Build a strong sense of community
- Support the school's educational and social objectives
- Act as liaison between parents and school administration
- Fundraise for "extras" that benefit all students

Action Items:

Person Responsible:

Deadline:

VSPA 2015-16 Budget

Sara

Discussion: We have had no major expenditures as of this school year.

Most expenses were for the Winter Carnival. We made a small profit, which was what we aimed to do; it was not meant to be a huge fundraiser, but a community-building event appealing to all ages.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Nominating Committee

Tiffany C.

Discussion:

Tiffany C. went through the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee: *"The Nominating Committee shall nominate one eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the organization's general meeting in January"*.

She then introduced the Nominating Committee and the process that they went through to come up with a slate of candidates including where and when various stages of the process were advertised to the public. They were approaching nominees until this past Sunday. Election day is at the next General Meeting on Wednesday, March 30.

Slate of Nominees:

President - Winanda Neijts, Past President - Sara Harding Lou, VP Primary - Azadel Behinfar, VP Elementary - Andrew Schofield, VP Middle - Paul Graham, VP High - Alessandra Eisner, Secretary - Krista Jewett, Treasurer - Vivian Yeh, New Family & Volunteer Coordinator - Ainhoa Blanco.

Sara L. called for additional nominations, but none were made. Rebecca H. made a motion to accept the list of candidates, Liz G. seconded that motion. No one objected to the slate of nominees.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

VSPA 2015-16 Calendar

Sara

Discussion:

We had several events in the first semester, such as Boo Hoos and Yahoos, Parent Coffees and Evenings Out, Teacher Appreciations and the Winter Carnival.

Second term, we have an Elementary and Finna Playdate at Ray Miller Park (Friday, Jan. 29 10am-1pm), Parents' Night Out (MS at Rouge Feb. 5 at 6:30pm), Parents' Night Out (HS tbd on March 4) and the 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday April 2 at the Pine Forest Country Club (School run – not VSPA).

Upcoming highlights include: Parent Association General Meetings in the Middle School Learning Commons

- January 27 – 8:30am – Executive Committee Nomination
- March 30 – 8:30am – Executive Committee Elections
- May 25 – 8:30am (Audit Committee and 2017-17 Budget Approval)

New Parent Coffee – January 13 at 8am in the MS Learning Commons.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

VSPA Activities

Sara

Discussion:

Community Building Events: We support a number of new and established parent-led groups such as Movie Club, 2 Wine Clubs, Soccer Dads (will allow moms too), Language Groups (such as French, Russian, Croatian; let us know if you want to start a new one) to name a few. Anyone is welcome to attend any and all events. We have a Facebook Group, which is a closed group that any parent can join, but it is not a political platform.

Fundraising Events: Over 600 students and over 1000 people in total came to the Winter Carnival. It was a beautiful day – including a snow slide sponsored by Weatherford.

Staff Appreciation: We host Teacher Appreciation luncheons and feedback from this past December's functions was that the teachers felt very special as it was a busy time for all, so our efforts were much appreciated.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

General Discussion

Sara

Discussion:

Parents Night Out: Someone asked if there are any EC & ES Parents' Night Out events and it was said that there are playdates for the EC & ES families instead of nights out. Pat re-iterated that everyone is invited to all MS & HS events. Wendy L. suggested we have a Mother's Night Out event this year.

Income Fundraising: Vivian Y. let everyone know that VSPA has a community page of local business sponsors, which creates a little bit of recurring revenue. Examples included Josephine's, Rattan, Carmelos. Rattan has a Chinese New Year celebration in February and they would like us to post that on Facebook. We support good, local businesses.

Advancial Credit Union: Sara L. mentioned that Shandy Moore has set up a Financial Responsibility program for children of The Village, so they can set up their own savings accounts. This is open to all staff and parents.

Westside Tennis Club: Offering to have a Village Family Day probably in the next couple of weeks. VS will get \$250 per family that joins. The facility is very kid friendly.

Giuseppe Zanotti Design: High-end shoe designer offering to have a private event for VS moms, as interest has been expressed.

Neighborhood Coffee Groups: A new parent named Sue T. queried about having Village coffee groups in specific neighbourhoods. She is offering to help set it all up as she has done it before. Awty also does this sort of thing. In the past, Michele H. had a breakdown of all zipcodes in the area, so we can start with that. A parent named Vivian H. suggested we have sign-up sheets at future coffee mornings.

PALS program: Someone was concerned that they were not matched with another family when they arrived to VS in January. Liz G., Sara L. and Ainhoa B. clarified that they contacted all new families this term. VSPA is working with Admissions to get family information sooner than they have been.

New parents may not know that they need to make their profile public in Skyward in order for VSPA to access the information. It used to be that the school would wait until a cheque clears to put new families into the database, but that has now changed. One of VSPA's biggest things is to get parents involved. We are very dependent on information the school gives us and on what parents give them. Ainhoa will email all and set up new PALS in May (will try to include zip code and grade level). There is also another parent coffee near the end of the year.

Sara L. re-iterated that there can be other events and coffee groups that VSPA can help facilitate.

Sara L. reminded everyone to check their filters and junk mail if they are not receiving the VSPA News.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:

Adjournment

Discussion: Winanda N. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Pat G. seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21am.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 8:30am in the MS Learning Commons.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline: