



VEDDER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PAC Minutes

October 16, 2019 Called to order by Amy, Chair at 7:03pm

In Attendance

Members Present:

Amy (Chair)	Bonnie	Rice	Brianna
Gabe D'Archangelo (Principal)	Jill	Molly	Tricia
Sharon Bernard (Vice-Principal)	Karolyn	Aurica	Ramona
Matt Brooks (Vice-Principal)	Cornell	Tai (DPAC Rep)	
Karen (Secretary)			

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the Oct. 2019 meeting and Sept. 2019 minutes were approved by Holly and 2nd by Brianna

*Amendment was made to the minutes. Representative for the Grade 7 camp trip in May will be coming to give a talk on October 17 from 6-7pm. This talk has been postponed to November.

Principal's Report (given by Sharon Bernard)

- Assessments have been occurring at the school. FSAs, SNAP (numeracy) and School Wide Write (literacy)
- Halloween Activities - Oct. 31 afternoon there will be a selection of activities that students can choose from to participate in: crafts, movies, dance party, carving pumpkins, etc...
- Intermural at lunch - Beach Volleyball
- Athletics - Volleyball is winding down
 - Grade 7+8 basketball is starting up in November
 - Grade 6 - basketball will start up in late Jan/early Feb.
- Last week was Spirit week - crazy hair day, PJ day, dress like fall, school colours
- Spirit wear - orders can be made until Oct. 31. You can order hoodies and t-shirts – the form is available on the VMS website or by hard copy from the office. The spirit wear is provided by a local company. There will be samples in the office for students to try on sizes.
- Twitter - a twitter account has been updated with the handle Vedder_Middle
- Instagram - VMS Instagram account is veddermiddleschool
- Parent/teacher/student interviews- October 24 - 11:15 early dismissal and interviews will be from 11:30-2:30. Open drop-in or scheduled interviews depending on the teacher
- Grade 6 Immunization Nov 13 - forms will be going home soon
- November 7 - Grade 6 outdoor day - celebration assembly in the afternoon
- Breakfast club - An EA is hired to make breakfast starting at 7:30. 2 other EAs volunteer their time to assist with this.

Open Discussion

- Rainbow Crosswalk - the school is getting a rainbow crosswalk painted in front of the school for the need for all students to feel inclusive in our building
 - The crosswalk will include the entire colours of the rainbow to include the entire inclusivity of all (LGBTQ+ does not have indigo in their rainbow flag)
 - The school is working to get to a point where everyone feels safe, included and connected
 - At risk students need to feel they are supported - this is one step that shows we are at the starting points. Moving forward - we do need to start somewhere
 - The discussion occurs about the crosswalk, how to show inclusivity, bullying, giving support to those students who need it
 - Suggestions about how to "walk the talk", to get kindness happening in the school, to make students feel connected to the school
 - A parent suggested we add the statement in the front entry "We All Belong"
 - A parent voiced their concerns that we are reaching out to the 1% of the students however what about the other 99% that have other issues that they may be dealing with
 - A parent suggested we paint a mural that could be part of the entrance wall that includes everyone, including the rainbow
 - Suggestion: Welcome Wall - the front entry – in many different languages
 - Administration is open to more ideas to add to the inclusiveness of the school, please discuss it with them if there are any other ideas

Treasurer's Report (Nancy, Treasurer- reported by Amy)

- Gaming grant for the 2019/2020 school year has been received - \$16,060
- The proposed budget of \$17,460 was put to a motion. The 2019/2020 budget was moved by Tai, 2nd Rice, CARRIED

DPAC Report (Tai, DPAC Chair)

- Pipeline presentation was given to provide information about the concerns of the pipeline. A statement of opposition was sent in from DPAC. There is an option to bring the presentation to the PAC meeting. It was decided that a parent information night with the community schools (Watson Elementary and Tyson Elementary) would work. Tai would connect on moving this forward.
- Vaping Awareness - 25-30% of middle and high school students are trying it. Students will be fined if on school grounds and a larger fine if under age. There is a better handle on it this year at VMS, knowledge of it is filtering down to homes. Information will be given to the parents on the VMS website. There are discussions about it in career and health classes. When students are caught, further education is given.
- PAC 101 Information night held - anyone interesting in PACs could attend the information night. Several things were suggested: the PAC agenda should be sent out to parents a week before the meeting; school growth plan should be discussed at some point throughout the school year at the PAC meeting; school budgets should be requested from the school principal.
- Emergency Planning - should be discussed at a PAC meeting

- Next DPAC meeting October 24, 2019, 7pm School Board Office
- Minutes will be posted on the School District website

Motions

- Pay for two tents for use at sport functions, outdoor events, etc... totaling \$1500. Moved by Brianna, 2nd Rice, CARRIED
- To support teachers in the classroom, PAC will provide \$100 per teacher for the purchase of games, activities, etc. chosen by the teacher. Moved by Brianna, 2nd Tai, CARRIED

New Business

- Book drive - looking into starting a book drive to gather more books for the classroom libraries.
- Facebook Group
 - Amy is an administrator along with a past VMS parent and would like a few other parents to get involved and help administrate this group.
 - Discussion occurred about guidelines currently in place on Facebook group
 - Some feel posting restrictions are too limiting and that censorship is occurring
 - Others feel if it is too open, there will be too much negativity
 - Discussion to continue at next meeting
 - Once additional parents are lined up to help administer the FB group, that group will meet with school administrators and work to find a mutually agreed upon policy for what the Facebook group should and shouldn't be used for.

New Executive

- Karen stepped down from the secretary role due to her recent employment at VMS. Nomination brought forth for Tai to take on the secretary position - Tai accepted the position; no other nominees; Tai elected by acclamation.
- Tai stepped down from the DPAC rep role due to taking on the secretary role. Nomination brought forth for Bonnie to take on the secretary position - Bonnie accepted the position; no other nominees; Bonnie elected by acclamation.

Next Meeting

- **November 20, 2019 at 7pm**

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm