

MEETING MINUTES

Vale Elementary PTO

10/14/2021 | 6:30 pm | *Vale Elementary Library*

Board members

Lyndsay Jones, President | Mark Shorb, Vice President | Diana Jones, Secretary | Kira Wood, Secretary

Welcome

- Board introductions.

Principal Report

- Vale's doors are open to 650 kids this year. All staff are doing their best to keep them open and to provide some sense of normalcy for our students. For example, this year the 4th graders were able to resume their annual field trip to barn beach. This is an exciting and much anticipated event. Which was a total success.
- This year in lieu of the Eagle Buck store which requires volunteers, each pod has come up with new ways to reward students for their eagle bucks and sore tickets they've earned for good behavior and acts of kindness. Some have treasure chests, or a coupon system and others can save up to get an extra recess or to play kick ball with Mr. Morgan.
- In the past we have had up to 125 volunteers a day. However, with the October 18th vaccination mandate in place, Vale will continue to wait to bring them back. Vale misses their volunteers greatly but wants to find a way to bring them back safely and without discrimination.
- COVID testing is now available to students and staff on site at 7:15 am Monday thru Friday and Sundays 3-4pm. The Cashmere School district is doing their best to manage the many challenges that COVID has brought on.
- The PTO and Vale continue to be unified in finding creative ways to benefit our students.

Budget review and planning

- Starting the year with \$21,507. Every year we need \$9,000 to operate as normal.
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- Currently discussing different events we could do safely during this time.
 - Planning on doing the Fun Run in the Spring but we need to come up with a fundraising goal to put the money towards.
 - Fundraising ideas in lieu of the fun run that have been discussed: raffle, readathon, online auction, etc...
 - The PTO would like to get staff feedback or a wish list on how we can help and where to spend any money for the students.
 - Discussed giving the teachers or pods more money to work with to make the magic happen in the classroom and providing updates to the families and communities on how that money was spent.

Event Review

- Back to School event held on 9/1 was much like the end of the school year event but without food. Volunteers wore their fun run shirts, Mark wore the new Mascot costume purchased by the PTO, with music, fun, and signs in the drop off lane before school. It was a success.
- Martin's Family Orchard provided fresh fruit for the staff in the staff lounge. Which was much appreciated.

Potential Events

- CrunchPak is looking to have 100 parents of Vale students to sample some new apple products. By doing this they will provide \$20 for every person and that will go back to Vale. Vale staff will organize, and the PTO will manage the money. The Middle school will be participating as well.
- Gingerbread store: Diana will organize a separate meeting to discuss and invite anyone who would like to help. PTO was given the go ahead to begin organizing. We have some items for the store already but may need some presale shoppers to finish up. If you're interested in being part of the Gingerbread store committee, please contact us at cashmerevalepto@gmail.com
- Also need to start thinking about Christmas gifts for the Vale staff. Lyndsay Jones is interested in doing this again this year. Last year with the help of CrunchPak and Confluence Health the PTO was able to purchase and distribute all the staff nice Vale logo fleece jackets, gift cards for coffee, and handwritten cards.

Staff Appreciation

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- Idea was proposed to have nxdor coffee, a local coffee cart, come to Vale to serve our staff in lieu of delivering coffee this year. Voted on by the board and scheduled for the end of the month.
 - Starting to brainstorm on gifts for the staff. Note from a teacher in attendance, The Heartfelt messages are their favorite.

PTO Communication

- It was discussed that there needs to be more communication from the PTO besides social media. For this meeting we posted on Facebook, Instagram, ClassTag, monitors in the lobby, Vale website, a flyer went home with students, and signs were posted at the school.
- It was the consensus that the physical flyer, ClassTag notification, and the childcare provided that made the difference in tonight's attendance of 23 people. This has been the largest attendance in quite sometime.
- Mark is researching options for a better website platform. Where parents can find all the information, online donations year-round, a comprehensive calendar, and mobile friendly.
- Kira is working on a list of ways parents can get involved and volunteer.

Leadership Team

- It was discussed to invite Mrs. Davidson's leadership team to the meetings to provide updates and help make decisions.
- This may require a zero-hour time before school to allow the team to meet which would require staffing.

Future Meetings

- 3 general sessions a year to be scheduled.
- Tentatively scheduled for 11/30 and March 16th
- Will continue to hold at Vale
- Kira will organize the facility request and childcare.
