

**Villa Park Elementary Home & School League  
General Board Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2016**

**Meeting called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Julie Krodel.**

We are getting started right on time! Music starts at 9:30, so we have about an hour. Welcome to the first Home & School League meeting of the year! I see a lot of new and also familiar faces—awesome! This year I'd like to start our meetings with an inspirational quote. Here's one from John Lennon:

When I was five years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down *happy*. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life.

Today I would like to welcome two guest speakers from CARE (Community Advancement through Renovation for Education): Christina Kendler and Darshan Smaaladen. Welcome, ladies!

**Measure S – Christina Kendler and Darshan Smaaladen.** We are here to promote Measure S, the school facilities bond for \$288 million for repairs and upgrades to the four OUSD high schools. This bond will impose a 25% lower tax burden on property owners than the bond that failed in 2014. It will not only ensure the safety of our students while they are on campus, but also increase home values. We are a volunteer-run organization, and we would like to encourage you to get involved! VPHS buildings were made before earthquake safety advancements—we need to update them! Please engage with your neighbors and the community around you. The facts are our allies; mistruths are what make people oppose the bond. Visit [www.YesOnS2016.org](http://www.YesOnS2016.org) to use the app (created by a VPHS student) to calculate your estimated tax burden. It is based on assessed value, not market value. On the website, you may also request a yard sign and sign up to help with the campaign. We must pass Measure S if we wish to be eligible for up to \$60 million from Proposition 51, which will allocate \$9 billion in matching funds to districts that qualify. Past bonds failed by narrow margins in 2004 and 2014. VPE phone banking shifts are on Thursdays, 6-8:00 p.m.

Nicol Jones stated that the VPHS PFSO voted to endorse the bond. Julie Krodel would like to propose a vote for the VPE H&SL to formally endorse Measure S today.

**Motion made for the VPE Home & School League to formally endorse Measure S by Erin Flynn, seconded by Kathleen Enge, all in favor.**

**Grade Level Report – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Happenings.** 6<sup>th</sup> grade students spoke about their elementary AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) college preparation program. In science, they have implemented a 2-column, color-coded note-taking system for clear outlining of key ideas and their definitions. In math, their notes are headed by an essential question followed by two or three columns (problem-work-answer), and ending with a color-coded summary. They are also focusing on binder organization, including nightly parent checks. These tools are helping them study more effectively.

**Principal's Report – Mrs. Little.** Thank you for your help with our new drop-off and pick-up procedures! Please remember to read the email I sent yesterday, especially the section about the new volunteer verification process. The district is requiring us to have forms completed by each volunteer who wishes to spend time on campus. Human Resources is handling the verifications, and more details on the exact process are forthcoming. For now, please get those forms turned in. This new system will help ensure the safety of our students.

**Free Money – Heather Cassara.** Our fall box tops collection date is October 7, so please send in those box tops! Our school also gets free money from Amazon when shoppers select VPE as their preferred charitable organization and begin their shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). Some of the free money programs we enjoyed in the past have fallen by the wayside, so if you know of any free money opportunities please let me know.

**Dads Club – Mark Kuli.** Our first meeting on Tuesday had a great turnout! Tomorrow night is our poker tournament at the VP City Hall. We are having our first work day on Sunday, September 25—please submit your ideas! We also plan to get dads and kids together for some fun at Fall Family Night in October, and Camp Bobcat in June.

**Spirit Wear – Mark Kuli.** We have a new design this year, and we are now offering Youth Small through Extra Extra Large. Order forms are going home this week, and all items are online at [SpiritWearWebStore.com](http://SpiritWearWebStore.com). All sizes are on display in the school office, or you can stop by my office to see the sizes when you're picking up your Yes On Measure S sign!

**Approve Minutes from May Meeting.** Please review the minutes from our last meeting, which was at Open House in May.

**Motion made to approve May's minutes by Michelle Gonzalez, seconded by Kim Barks Finamore, all in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report – Francine Sawyer.** Please review the proposed operating budget that was approved by the executive board over the summer so that we can vote to approve it today.

**Motion made to approve operating budget by Francine Sawyer, seconded by Megan Friederich, all in favor.**

**Room Parent Update – Kristina Simons.** Hope all is going well on those baskets for the parent mixer! This year's Jog-A-Thon will take place on Halloween, and students will wear their Monster Dash t-shirts instead of costumes. Please note that costumes are permitted as long as they meet guidelines, but we cannot accommodate wardrobe changes during the school day, so students need to understand that they will be jogging in their costumes if they choose to wear them.

**Parent Mixer – Erin Flynn.** Event takes place on Friday, October 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Moreno's. Please let me know if you need help with your baskets, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the event. Raffle ticket sales will take place the week of the event: Wednesday and Thursday after school, and Friday during Family Lunch. Drawing will take place at 8:00 p.m. at the event. Promote the event! It's fun!

**Book Fair – Mickey McGuire.** The fall Book Fair will take place October 10-14 after school during conference week, and also during Fall Family Night.

**Fall Family Night.** Event takes place on October 14. This year's movie is *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Dads Club will also host a Bean Bag game. Concessions and/or dinner are yet to be determined.

**Monster Dash Jog-A-Thon – Julie Stoico.** Sign up for PledgeStar to earn your cool shirt! It's fast and easy! This year's Jog-A-Thon will take place on Monday, October 31. An orange sponsorship form went home outlining the four sponsorship levels, which have changed a bit this year, including our new corporate sponsorship level. PledgeStar is live! Everyone will get a t-shirt, but please help offset that cost by registering on PledgeStar and sending as many emails as you can! Exciting incentives this year include Target gift cards, a class party, and an iPad mini. Student Council will be promoting the Jog-A-Thon in the classrooms tomorrow.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraising – Kari Christie and Leslie Lilomaiva.** Please take a ShopWithScrip flyer to see how you can earn free money for 5<sup>th</sup> graders with retail gift cards. Mixed Bags fundraiser will be coming soon. We will sell community discount cards in March, and will have restaurant nights throughout the year.

#### **Announcements**

- September 23: Fall Picture Day, order forms coming home soon
- September 25: Dads Club work day, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- September 29: Family STEM Night, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., with 5 classrooms of hands-on activities
- October 5: National Walk to School Day featuring the Golden Shoe participation award
- October 7: Family Lunch on the Lawn – bring lunch and eat with your kids at 11:45 for upper grades, 12:15 for primary
- October 7: Fall Fiesta Parent Mixer, 6:00 p.m. at Moreno's Restaurant, with raffle drawing at 8:00 p.m.
- October 10-14: Conference week (minimum days)
- October 10-14: Book Fair
- October 12: Bike Rodeo
- October 14: Fall Family Night
- October 20: next H&SL meeting at 8:15
- October 24-28: Red Ribbon Week
- October 31: Monster Dash Jog-A-Thon
- October 31: Fall class parties
- November 1: No school (staff development day)

Thank you all for coming! Thanks to Monique McArthur for the refreshments today, and at Back to School Night!

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.**