

**Villa Park Elementary Home & School League**  
**General Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Meeting called to order at 8:20 a.m. by Julie Krodel.**

**Grade Level Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Happenings.** Mrs. Stilwell's 2<sup>nd</sup> graders present what they have been doing with the Chromebook carts. There is a potential need for H&SL to spend money on technology in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, because the carts are going to be going away. 2<sup>nd</sup> grader LJ Castillo showed us a slide show she created in Power Point, and Ryan Riley showed us his James Buchanan research project.

**Principal's Report – Mrs. Little.** What great examples of communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and using technology as a tool in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning! 5<sup>th</sup> grade is getting close to being ready for the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, and we will be surveying 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents soon. If we decide to move forward with BYOD in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, then we can push technology spending down to the lower grades. We have two dedicated carts for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades each have one cart on loan from OUSD—these loaner carts float from school to school to increase exposure to technology.

Engineers Week is next week. We have five or six speakers planning to give simple presentations about their work, and lead simple hands-on activities. We can still welcome more engineers if you know anyone.

Yesterday our teachers got their first training in the new science standards. Emphasis will be performance in science rather than knowledge of science, with a focus on achieving an outcome. We expect to have the new curriculum within two years.

Current 5<sup>th</sup> graders were tested on the old system. This year they are piloting a new computer-based test with a more problem-solving approach. Results will not count. We should start using the real version next year. There's always some lag time between developing and using new testing.

Next year we will also be introducing the new McGraw-Hill English Language Arts series.

There is a shift in OUSD toward understanding the K-12 continuum, rather than viewing each grade on its own.

Some logistical items: it is a district rule not to allow siblings at parties—it's a safety issue. We will do better with communication. Also want to make sure parents don't feel pressured to attend every party—they are intended to be simple celebrations for students to enjoy. Kindergarten registration begins in March. Open Enrollment begins at the end of February. There will be a lottery; there is no longer any difference between No Child Left Behind and regular Open Enrollment. Children of OUSD employees and siblings of continuing students get higher priority.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraising.** Things are going great! We will have a skate party in a couple months. McDonald's McTeacher night will take place in March, after our preferred location (on Chapman) completes its remodel. Discount cards are also coming soon. They will be sold for \$20, with \$17 of that going directly to the student.

**Foundation Games.** Forms are available in the office—they're due March 10. We had about 140 participants last year, hoping for more this year. We have a title to defend! Practices will start in March. Event will take place on April 21 and 22. Most of our students will participate on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with students born in 2004 participating on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mrs. Little:** We have a new traffic pattern. It's a small change, but one that we can't ignore. The path and fencing are scheduled to be moved this weekend, but it will likely be delayed because of rain. After we get the new path and move the fence, we can have experts evaluate safety.

**Parliamentarian's Report/Nominating Committee – Megan Friederich.** The nominating committee for next year's executive board will be chaired by Julie Krodel and myself. Heather Cassara, Michelle Gonzalez, and Julie Stoico will represent the general board, and Kim Barks and Sarah Jarrell will serve as alternates. We will meet within the next couple weeks to make sure that the nominees meet all requirements outlined in the bylaws. We will announce the slate of executive board officers at next month's meeting.

**President's Message – Julie Krodel.** Here's a quote from Brooke Hampton to start the day:

"Speak to your children as if they were the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on earth, for what they believe is what they will become."

**Approve January Minutes.** Please review the minutes from our last meeting. Any opposition or discussion?

**Motion made to approve January's minutes by Hannelore Flores, seconded by Wendy McGrane, all in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report – Francine Sawyer.** Our box tops check from the first half of the year was over \$800! We have about \$7000 available to spend on technology! We have purchased three lunch tables; they will be arriving soon. Please let me know if you have any questions about the budget report.

Question from Beth Riley: Can we repair/repaint the kindergarten building using our campus beautification funds?

Mrs. Little: No, that is OUSD responsibility.

Mark Kuli suggests a banner box for that wall.

**President's Report – Julie Krodel.** In the past 90 days, AmazonSmile has deposited \$85 in our account. Free money opportunities enable us to stay with one annual fundraiser (Jog-A-Thon). Spread the word!

This is the time to fill board positions for next year! For example: After School Enrichment needs a chair. Lip Sync needs a co-chair for this year, ideally to continue as chair next year.

**Dads Club – Mark Kuli.** Poker night was fantastic! This casual, fun mixer helps get dads involved.

Camp Bobcat will take place on June 9, and the theme is The Arches National Park. We have two new fundraising chairs: Colin Smith and William Hamelin. We are hoping to put together a coupon book style goodie bag.

We have two successful lunch cart prototypes, and we will get back to that project in a couple months. Our current focus is the old buildings.

The H&SL Executive Board has officially agreed that the old buildings should be removed. OUSD had a plan to remove them in 2008, and theoretically their position hasn't changed. I have spoken at OUSD, VP City Council, OUEA, and Rotary. We were on the agenda at the OUSD board meeting last night, and we had a great presence. Felt like a knockout blow in the first round. Lots of speakers on our side, only one for the opposition. According to [Superintendent of Schools] Mike Christensen, it would cost \$5 million to restore, or \$250,000 to remove. The buildings have been unsafe since 1933; it's not that controversial now. Please be open if you disagree! It appears that the board may be on board with demolition. We need to get them moving on this if we want to have it done this summer.

**Julie Krodel:** Thank you very much, Mark. It was very hard for [Mark's mom] Mrs. Kuli and other restoration supporters to change their minds. The opposition certainly deserves our respect.

**Kirsten Zeydel-O'Neill:** Here's a quick education on the construction of the older building. It was built of hollow clay tile. The benefits of this material are that it is lightweight and fireproof. However, there is no rebar for reinforcement, and the 1933 Long Beach earthquake revealed the danger of these types of structures. The Whittier Fault is about seven miles away, and it is capable of producing a magnitude 7.2 earthquake. The San Andreas Fault is about 38 miles away, and it is capable of producing a magnitude 8.1 earthquake. Magnitude numbers go up on a logarithmic scale. It's important to note that the old buildings would not just be demolished. There would be artifact collection, along with a video and photographic history.

**Mrs. Little:** Thank you, Mark and Kirsten, for really looking into all aspects. I'm not in a position to be a front runner on an issue like this.

**Carnival – Julie Krodel for Kari Christie.** Jungle theme carnival will take place on March 17, 4:00-8:00. Ticket presale flyers will go home next week. Kari has hired the TK Burgers food truck, which will have lots of menu options including fries. We will have lazer tag, boom blasters, silly string, games, and sport challenges. Please see Kari if you would like to help.

#### **Announcements**

- February 17 and 20 – no school
- February 21-24 – Engineers Week
- February 22 – College Spirit Day
- March 2 – Read Across America Day
- March 14 – minimum day, end of 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester
- March 16 – next H&SL meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.**