

Virginia Run Elementary



everychild.one voice.®

PTA General Meeting November 8, 2013

Call to Order: 9:40 AM by Lori Leventry, PTA President.

Attendance: Lori Leventry, Susan Patterson, Kelly Bobek, Kim Beamon, Rebecca Brazier, Karen Mychalus, Jason Skerker, Angil Romitti, Laraine Edwards, Cindy Lamb, Johannah Evans, Amy Hutt, Robin Osterhaut, Allison Palmer, Shelley Teras, Brian Adams, Linda Trigg, Christi Brubaker, Sandra Bonano, Jim Bonano, Mindy Conway.

Minutes: October 2013 minutes were approved. Motion by Susan Patterson and seconded by Kim Beamon. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Guest Speakers: Angie Leonard and Emily Habermeyer, VRES Counselors. Information was presented by the counselors on bullying including data that was collected from a survey of students in grades 4-6. The results showed that 50% of children reported being bullied while 50% indicated they were not bullied. Also, 27% reported they tell their parents about being bullied but 13% answered that they don't tell anyone. The counselors discussed how physical bullying has decreased but there has been an increase in verbal bullying. VRES is part of the "Stand Up To Bullying" Westfield Pyramid. The definition of bullying is when a person or group of people repeatedly uses words or actions to intentionally cause physical or emotional harm to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. Bullying can be physical, verbal, intimidation, rumors or social exclusion. Cyber-bullying involves sending insulting messages by computer or text. All staff at VRES are expected to take concerns and reports about bullying seriously. Staff should investigate immediately and follow up afterwards. Due to confidentiality, they may not be able to share all details with you, but they can assure you it has been addressed. School staff may work with your child to develop a plan to help your child. School staff will encourage your child to talk to an adult immediately if there is any future bullying. VRES teachers and students are being trained in this area, for instance with the VRES Bullying Prevention Program: "Stop, Walk, Talk". With this program, each year FCPS students in grades K-6 will be taught what bullying is and how to respond to it. If students experience or see bullying, they are to tell the person causing the problem *Stop*. If the problem continues they are to *Walk* away. If the problem persists or becomes dangerous, they are to *Talk* to an adult. Children can also contact the counselors at any time, and request meeting forms are in all the classrooms. Parents can also contact the counselors if they have any questions or concerns.

New Business:

- Lori Leventry explained that the PTA Budget should be amended to include a line item under Education and Service for the new Lego Club. Motion was made by Karen Mychalus and seconded by Kelly Bobek. The vote was unanimous to approve the Lego Club line item.

- Lori Leventry explained the need to move \$200 in funds from Odyssey of the Mind and \$200 from Reflections to fund the new Lego Club. Motion was made by Mindy Conway and seconded by Karen Mychalus. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Treasurer's Report:

- A line item was added to the budget for web-maintenance.
- Karen Mychalus is waiting for the Fall Classic Cookie Sale Fundraiser to end to see how much we have collected. The fundraiser started later this year than last year.

Vice President Committee Chairs Reports:

- Kim Beamon noted that the Flex program has started and also that the Flex program chair will be open next year. Directory chair Russell Ramey is working on the directory and it will be ready to print soon. We are currently collecting money for the Walk For the Homeless. Pottery will have a winter session. Lego Club Chairs Brian Adams and Allison Palmer discussed the start-up. They will need to send out flyers and see how many participants- also will need parent volunteers to help, Lego kits can be stored in the PTA storage closet. The goal this year is to start a Lego Club and in the future can possibly add Robotic Legos and other options.
- Mindy Conway noted that the VRES Variety Show will be held January 25 at Westfield High School. The first meeting is December 3 and rehearsals will take place both before holiday break and after holiday break. Volunteers are needed to help with the Variety Show.
- Christi Brubaker Chairman of Fall Classic Cookie Sale Fundraiser reported that we have raised \$9,000 to date. Our goal is \$20,000. The delivery date for cookies is November 20 from 3:30-6:30 pm in the VRES cafeteria.
- Kelley Bobek noted that Heather Barnett will chair the Holiday Shop which will place on December 5. Also looking into changing vendor for spirit wear in January. Robin Osterhaut noted the early bird yearbook sale has started. Box Tops is sending out flyers to get parents to register online with participating stores (Giant, Target & Harris Teeters).
- Susan Patterson reported on upcoming social activities: Bingo Night (November 15). Movie Night (December 6)
- Kim Beamon noted that our PTA Lost and Found clothes rack was reported broke after a PTA function and needs to be replaced.
- VRES Vice-Principal Jason Skerker informed us that E-Card testing is going on and is running smoothly.
- VRES Principal Laraine Edwards reported that teachers are working in the classroom to provide a community within their classroom, including holding morning meetings and also attending meetings to help drive this new effort. Principal Edwards also discussed the need to replace cafeteria lunch tables. The cost to do this is estimated at \$32,000.

Next General PTA Meeting:

- December 13, 2013 at 9:30 am.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00 AM