

Villa Park Elementary Home & School League
General Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 8:11 a.m. by Julie Krodel.

Happy New Year! I see some new faces—thank you for coming! Today's takeaway was hard to choose. Some thoughts as we start the new year:

This Year –

Hang on to your truth, and respect the truth of others. Choose to be happy.

Forgive those that you can forgive, and seek the forgiveness of someone who deserves it.

Do something outside of your comfort zone.

Be the voice for someone who has no voice. Be quiet strength.

Be the type of kindness that is strength.

Remember that love is a verb.

Choose healthy foods, activities, and people.

Fall six times, get up again seven: persevere.

Wish people a lovely day. Live honestly, truly, and with integrity.

Approve Minutes from November Meeting. Please review the minutes from our last meeting. Thank you, Francine Sawyer, for leading the November meeting.

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

Free Money Report – Heather Cassara. Next collection day is February 10th – it's the last one of the year! Julie Krodel would like to point out that February 10th is also Joel Cassara's birthday. We collected about \$900 worth of box tops last time, so it's totally worth the effort! Also, the Labels for Education program is going away soon, so we are trying to use our credits. We recently purchased PE equipment.

5th Grade Fundraising – Heather Cassara. Our next restaurant night will be Wednesday, January 25th at Blaze Pizza, from 4:30-7:30. We will be selling discount cards in March, and we will have a skate party and more restaurant nights later in the year.

Principal's Report – Mrs. Little. STEM initiative has been great! Thank you to all the dads who came to help last time; thanks especially to Mark Kuli. The zip line activity was a lot of fun! The kids were innovative. Next month's activity will be a little different because of National Engineers Week, which takes place February 21-24. We are trying to get engineers to come in and speak in the classrooms; please let us know if you know anyone. In March we'll go back to our regular STEM activity.

We started a "Problem of the Month" challenge in December. It's a multi-level math problem designed to give students a real-world application for their math skills. December's problem was about a party; this month is about a dinosaur dig. We are encouraging students to have fun with math and to realize that some problems take time.

It's the time of year when our School Site Council (SSC) reviews our School Safety Plan. SSC meetings are open to the public, and the next one will take place on January 30. You are welcome to email your thoughts and concerns to me as well. Some topics needing attention:

- Disaster kits – research the requirements and the processes currently in place; discuss other possibilities.
- On-campus photography – what kind of sensible guidelines can we put in place for parents taking pictures on campus?
- Old school buildings – fence surrounding the buildings will soon be moved. Its purpose is to protect passersby from earthquake danger, and it needs to be farther from the buildings. I acknowledge that the buildings would be a hazard in the event of an earthquake, but students do not go in or near it, so I don't feel safety is at risk on a daily basis.

Question: Can we make sure 3rd and 4th graders bring their lunches inside on rainy days?

Yes.

Treasurer's Report – Francine Sawyer. Budget printout provided for review. The Holiday Store is not a fundraiser per se, but it did bring in about \$1500, so that was nice. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Parliamentarian's Report – Megan Friederich. We are putting together a nominating committee for next year's executive board. We need two Home & School League members to attend one meeting before Open House in April. Please let me know if you are interested. At the meeting we will discuss the slate of executive board members and make sure all qualifications are met. Julie Krodel would like to announce that now is the time to decide if you would like to be involved! Please see me, Megan Friederich, or Michelle Gonzalez if you would like to discuss opportunities. Open House is early this year: April 18. The Home & School League has to stay organized so we can be ready for next year. The executive board consists of President,

Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Presidents, etc. There are many general board jobs as well, chairpersons for events throughout the year. We like to refresh the list, get new parents involved, and be inclusive. No volunteerism is too big or too small.

Grade Level Report – 3rd Grade Happenings. Third graders Lucy Flynn and John Kuli are here to talk to us about life in 3rd grade. They completed cursive instruction before the winter break, and now all work is done is cursive except for spelling. They enjoyed their Orange County History field trip. They would like to thank the Home and School League for the PE, music, and Art Masters programs it provides. They are participating in Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) interim assessments.

Mrs. Little: Thank you, Lucy and John! In the state of California, cursive is required for 3rd and 4th grade only. SBAC interim assessment scores do not count. These assessments give students an opportunity to practice reading articles and citing sources, and they can retake them multiple times.

Dads Club – Mark Kuli. STEM activities are going great! Let's keep the dads involved. I'm excited about encouraging their presence on campus. We have built two new lunch carts for Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Urbanski/Mrs. Stilwell. We are trying to figure out how to get more done, and will see if Home Depot can donate wood. Poker tournament is coming up on February 3. Camp Bobcat theme this year will be The Arches National Park. I've learned a lot about the old school buildings since November. OUSD did make a plan in 2008, including removal, mitigation, photographs, and an oral history for posterity. The goal was to remove the buildings but maintain their historical significance. I see no problem with their 2008 plan. It is strange that the plan was made and approved, but never executed. It was an election year, so perhaps the OUSD board put off the project. The Home and School League executive board is on a mission to get the buildings removed. The safety issue that was acknowledged in 2008 has not gone away. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) estimated that it would cost about \$200,000 to remove the buildings in 2008. The cost is probably much higher now. I visited OUSD Assistant Superintendent Joe Sorrera and showed him photos of the buildings. The fences will soon be moved to allow a proper safety perimeter. This will be a nuisance. We need to exercise our rights to keep this moving along. I will be at the OUSD meeting tonight. My message to the board is that they have not maintained these buildings, and that their removal is a priority for us and it should be a priority for them. There doesn't seem to be any more energy in the opposition. Restoration would cost about \$5 million today, and that's simply not going to happen. Parents can help by writing to our board members. I sent Kathy Moffat a last-minute invitation to today's meeting. I will cordially invite her next time. Please let me know if you feel differently—I want to hear all voices.

Mrs. Little appreciates Mark's approach, but has to remain neutral. She has very limited power in this circumstance.

Kirsten Zeydel-O'Neill: The structural engineering firms that reviewed the report were reputable. The larger building is constructed of unreinforced masonry. After the Long Beach earthquake of 1933, school safety requirements were established, but not fully enforced until the 1970s.

Julie Krodel: Mark will update us at future meetings. We will also post updates on the Home and School League website.

Ways & Means – Kim Barks Finamore. We are planning a tile painting project for March. Purchase a tile, paint it, and we will mount it in the MPR. Leave your legacy on our campus. Stay tuned for more information.

Carnival/Auction – Julie Krodel for Kari Christie. Jungle theme carnival will take place on March 17, probably 4:00-8:00. Chairperson Kari Christie is always very creative. She is working on a food truck alternative to In-N-Out. Please see Kari if you would like to help. We are taking a less is more approach to this year's auction. We will feature joint grade level baskets (kinder/1st, 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th) and teacher experiences. Please see me or Francine Sawyer if you would like to help with the auction or serve as chairperson! The auction raises a lot of money for a very low cost.

Foundation Games. Event will take place on April 21 and 22. Most of our students will participate on the 22nd, with some 6th graders participating on the 21st—date assignment is based on age. We have a title to defend! We had 138 participants last year—let's beat that! Forms will be available next week. We are requesting a \$10 donation. Practices begin the first week of March. Please direct any questions to Sarah Jarrell.

Announcements

- January 25 – 5th and 6th grade VAPA performances
- January 25 – College Spirit Day
- February 10 – Spring Photo Day
- February 14 – class parties
- February 16 – next H&SL meeting
- February 17 and 20 – no school

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.