

VPE General Meeting

September 26, 2025

Villa Park Elementary: 10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861

Present:

Kalyn Goff, Charlene Chu, Iliana Arias, Janelle Mazla, Heidi Estremera, Angie Brown, Merrill Norrdin, Jolin Lang, Heather Sandoval, Jessica Olivares, Lacey Cahill, Connie Bui, Dan Bui, Leann Kaufman, Manuel Cisneros, Anna Smith, Audrey Murray, Megan Schmidt, Abigail Garcia, Brie Karaikos, Brian Matsuda, Briana Hernandez, Sierra Vane, Stefani McMillen, Heather Pastorello, Wendy Zuazo

Call to order: 9:17 am

Welcome: Kathleen Lim-Valle

The Home and School League (H&SL) welcomes everyone to the meeting.

Grade presentation 6th Grade

Update: For Math, the 6th graders are working on “One Pagers”, which is a poem explaining a specific mathematic topic. They work hard to make their “One Pagers” colorful and neat. They also take a “TOSS” which is a test before they learn the lesson. If they score an 80% or higher on the TOSS, they don’t have to do some of the homework for that lesson. For Science, they are learning about the importance of sleep for preteens and teenagers and the dangers of not getting enough sleep. They are making “smoosh books” about how volcanoes are formed. They are also doing a “Genuis Hour” where they come up with inquiry questions and then establish 5 additional questions regarding their topic. For social studies, they are creating brochures about ancient Egypt and creating “smoosh books” about the art, geography and climate of Egypt.

Approval of meeting minutes: Heidi Estremera

Meeting minutes from the May General Board Meeting approval requested- 1st, Heather Sandoval, 2nd Merrill Norrdin. Minutes approved.

Principal Announcements: Principal Martha Arceo

Principal updates: Started VAPA for TK-4th grade. Each grade is doing 6-week units. They are starting with Art then moving on to Theatre, Music, Dance and then back to Art. VAPA will be 45-minute lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays. Principal Arceo also discussed campus safety that has been brought up to her by many parents. She is working with the district on putting safety measures in place. See newsletter for the safety drills utilized by VPE. Discussion regarding what happens during a Lock Down and what is practiced during Lock Down drills was had. During a lock down drill the students will remain in their classrooms. If they happen to be in the bathroom during a Lock Down, they are instructed to go to the nearest classroom. Admin and office staff will first secure the front office and then do a full campus sweep to ensure that students are safe in a classroom. All teachers have rosters for all students and emergency contacts in the case that a student that is not in their class typically ends up in their classroom during an emergency or Lock Down. When an emergency occurs the safety of the staff and students come first. Principal Arceo will inform families as soon as she can but her first priority is the

safety of those at the school. Principal Arceo is working on having a larger meeting to get more information out to parents and answer any and all questions regarding campus safety.

Treasurer: Wendy Zuazo

Budget update: A copy of the budget was available for everyone at the meeting. The floor was opened up to anyone with any questions pertaining to the current budget. No questions were asked. Motion to approve the current budget was made- 1st, Stefani McMillen, 2nd Lacey Cahill. Budget approved.

Programs/Assemblies: Connie Bui

Update: Robots and Rockets at the beginning of the month was a success. Next month we have Imagination Machine assembly.

Ways and Means/Bobcat Run: Merrill Norrdin

Update: There was a great turn out for the Parent Mixer. We are hopeful that we raised close to \$3,000. Bobcat Run is on 11/7. Next week flyers will be coming home about corporate sponsorships. The kick off is on 10/2. Booster will come to VPE and get the kids pumped up for fundraising and for the run. There will then be a week of fundraising challenges. Fundraising Goal for the Bobcat Run is: \$48,000. Funds from the Bobcat Run goes towards PE, scholastic news, teacher's apps, Art Masters and assemblies. It was also clarified that corporate sponsorships do not go towards 5th grade fundraising, only individual funds do.

Membership Drive: Kathleen Lim-Valle

Update: The current top classes for the membership drive are:

1st place: Miller

2nd place: Ballesteros

3rd place: Victor

There's still time to get your class a prize. Join today!

Dads club: Justin Gilbert

Update: Poker night is coming up! Justin will be at our next meeting to share exciting news about Dad's Club.

Track updates/Fundraising Goal for 2025-2026: Kathleen Lim-Valle

Update: The Track fundraising was initiated in 2021. HSL raised the money for track and then had to work with the District for the final steps of installing the track. Installation of track was bundled with a portable project to add to CARES. The most recent update on the track was given on 9/6/2025- the plans are currently under review by the Division of School Architects (DSA). Once approved they can go to bid and the bidding process can take up to 2-2 ½ month. Benefits of the track were discussed as follows: concerns regarding the Bobcat Run and rain every year, the 5th graders presidential fitness and a safe space for the students before school "Walk and Talk". The fundraising goal for the 2025-2026 school year was discussed. A new LED marquee was suggested. The benefits of a new marquee would affect Birthday clubs and sponsorships for Bobcat Run. HSL will look into digitizing the payments for birthday club.

Walk to School Day/After School Enrichment: Wendy Zuazo

WTSD will be on 10/8/2025. Flyers will go out about meeting locations. At each location there will be a HSL member Handing out tickets. The students will turn those tickets in to their teachers to tally up which class has the most students participating. It is suggested to get to your meeting point at 7:30-7:40 to ensure that we get to class on time. Working on getting Sheriff's Department to help aid the safety of walking to school. Look for flyers to go out this week.

After school enrichment programs -sign up before 10/8. Sign ups close that day, not enough sign ups will result in closed class. HSL uses Parker Anderson to program for after school Enrichment classes. Principal Arceo picks the classes and programs she feels the students would most prefer. District is expanding ELOP programs. There is a point person at the District that you can call to get info on those programs.

Legislative Coalition: Jolin Lang

State Senator Choi was in meetings regarding SB 414, which proposes changes to oversight requirements for public and charter schools. State Senator Umberg reached out to the district to inquire about the impact of ICE activity on school enrollment and attendance. State Assemblyman Chen's office reported that the K-12 budget has been preserved and that the FAFSA application deadline has been extended by one month. Superintendent Monarrez, shared plans for her upcoming "learning and listening tour." This tour will include Town Hall-style meetings (in English and at least one in Spanish with translation provided at all sessions) to gather input for a new strategic plan. The district's current strategic plan, EDGE, is sunsetting. She will specifically focus on safety concerns and improving communication, with a goal for OUSD to be the top district in Orange County within three years. She also mentioned restarting the School Consolidation Committee, which will now include a third-party consultant and have its goals realigned based on community feedback. While district-wide enrollment is still dropping, the addition of new TK classes has helped mitigate this trend. District representatives discussed the new dyslexia screener, m-CLASS DIBELS, which will be administered to all K-2 students three times a year, replacing previous reading assessments. The district is trialing a new communication platform called ParentSquare. This platform is intended to centralize all communication from the district, principals, and teachers. It will allow users to choose their language and notification settings and will be integrated with Aeries. Trustees Vane and Yamasaki reported that OUSD has negotiated with the City of Orange to provide crossing guards at 17 schools located within the city. When I inquired about similar negotiations for Villa Park with the City of Villa Park and the Sheriff's Department, they recommended sending emails to the Superintendent and City Hall.

OTHER Q/A:

-A parent brought up a concern regarding crossing guards and the safety of students before and after school. It was discussed that we have tried in the past to get crossing guards with limited success. It must be done through the city and it has been a challenge to get put in place. HSL can look into other avenues for crossing guard safety. Look back into the flag system previously used.

-A parent suggested an avenue for fundraising could be through the Orange County Soccer Club. The fundraiser will be looked into and discuss with the board.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:**September 2025:**

9/26: H&SL Meeting at 9:15 am

9/28: Spirit wear sales close

October 2025:

10/1: Birthday Club

10/3: H&SL Membership Drive ends

10/8: Walk to School Day

10/13: Art Masters

10/24: H&SL Meeting 9:15 am

10/24: 5th Grade Teachers Treats

10/27: Red Ribbon Week Starts

10/29: Fun Run kick off assembly

10/29: Trunk of Treat 5:30-8:00pm

10/31: Halloween Class Parties

November 2025:

11/7: Bobcat Run

Meeting adjourned: 10: 08 am