



Van Wyck Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

Zoom Meet – Started at 6:30pm

Board Attendance:

President: Cathy Patrowic

Vice-President: Allyson Fore

Treasurer: Danielle Guidance

Secretary: Brooke Young

Dine Out Chair: Kathrine Gross

Corporate Sponsorships: Kathrine Gross

Membership Chair: Dayna Shaw

Spirit Rock Chair: Aliza Chiarello

Officer's Report: Brooke Young took the minutes at the meeting

Presidents Report given by Cathy Patrowic:

- Cathy welcomed everyone and had all board members introduce themselves.
- We have two **new members** on the PTO board.
 - Aliza Chiarello is now Spirit Rock Chair
 - Danielle Guidice is waiting on her back ground check to become the new Treasurer.
- **Intermediate School:** Cathy reported she has been in discussion with the local Elementary PTO's about the transition of our rising 5th-6th graders to the Intermediate School starting 2021-22 school year. The Intermediate School will be for 5th-6th graders located at the current Middle School. The Elementary PTO's discussed how PTO funds will be distributed to the new school to help start their new PTO. VWES PTO is unsure of the amount of money we can donate to the Intermediate School since we are a newer school ourselves and our PTO funds are so low. The plan is for VWES PTO to donate (amount to be determined) to the Intermediate School.
- **Boosterthon:** Starts April 14th. The theme is "Sports". The entire fundraiser will be virtual. There will not be a Fun Run this year, instead there will be a Dance-a-thon on April 22nd. For donations you will donate per minute that the child dances instead of per lap of running. The children that attend school will dance in their classrooms and virtual children will dance at home. During the week of Boosterthon they will have fun activities and prizes like they do every year. They also will have Olympic Athletes speak to the school virtually every day. The plan for the donated funds is to purchase Razkids

and Flocabulary for the school. And hopefully have enough money for the Intermediate School to help start their PTO.

- **Website/Newsletter:** Since we have been so disconnected this year due to COVID 19 regulations the PTO would like to find ways for us to get to know each other better. We are working on ways to help our PTO website be more personal. We would like to add more content on who your PTO board members are. That way if you see us out in the community you can talk with us, since we don't have the opportunity to talk at school. The PTO would also like to see the newsletter started back up. The hope is that the VWES community can get updates on what the PTO is doing. We will need a volunteer to help write the newsletter. This will not be a monthly distribution. The plan is hopefully to have an end of year wrap-up newsletter then a quarterly newsletter next year. Hopefully the newsletter will help keep our VWES family updated on what's going on with your PTO. Some examples of things we aren't sure if everyone knows that the PTO has done lately:
 - For the Holidays all staff received Amazon gift cards.
 - The teachers were given a case of water and a supersized box of individually wrapped snacks to have on hand if the students needed them. This was helpful since the children can't use the water fountains at the school.
 - PTO provided Valentines sweets and treats to all of the VWES staff
 - PTO tries to give to all staff, not just teachers. It takes the entire team to make our school a success.
- **Donation:** Card My Yard reached out to VWES PTO and would like to donate a sign. We are hoping to use it to say goodbye at the end of the school year.
- **End of Year Celebration:** This is an annual celebration for the 5th graders since they are graduating from Elementary school. This year we will incorporate the 4th graders since they are moving onto the Intermediate school also. Details have not been decided yet. There are restrictions on a large celebration. We are thinking each class will celebrate in their own classrooms.
- **Parent/Teacher Conference Night:** PTO will provide dinner for the staff since they have to stay late for conferences. Since everything has to be individually wrapped it will be sandwiches and chips. PTO will spend under \$300.

Treasurers Report:

- Danielle Guidice was introduced as our, soon to be, new Treasurer. As soon as the approval process is complete, she will be taking over Treasurer duties. Welcome Danielle!

Spirit Rock Report given by Aliza Chiarello:

- Aliza Chiarello was introduced as the new Spirit Rock Chair. Welcome Aliza!
- Aliza reported that she has not received a lot of emails daily with questions or booking. There are still spaces available so look on our website to book a rock today.
- Aliza reported she has received several questions on which rock is which. The PTO agrees that there needs to be a sign/label at each rock for clarification.

- Currently the rock at the front entrance is not available for sign up. When the school opened it was supposed to be donated to another school so we were not able to add it. After we get authorization, we will make changes.

Dine Out Night Report given by Kathrine Gross:

- Dine Out Night profits:
 - Showmars - \$300
 - Jersey Mikes - \$350
 - Chili's - \$200
 - Potbelly Sandwich Shop - \$24.48
- Upcoming Dine Out Nights:
 - March – Jim N Nicks: You can order online, drive thru, or dine in. You can also order days in advance. Keep a look out for more info.
 - April – Mama's Pizza
 - May – Jersey Mikes

Membership Report given by Dayna Shaw:

- There are 135 paid PTO members at this time.
- The membership fee is \$5 for individuals and \$10 for the family.
- You can join the PTO by going to the VWES website.
- You can make your payment on Pay4School or cash/checks directly to the school.

A few reminders:

- Volunteer needed for the PTO newsletter.
- Please remember to link your Harris Teeter vic card to our school.
- When purchasing through Amazon Smile choose Van Wyck Elem as your charity.
- Download the Box Tops app and scan your receipts.
- Download the Shoparoo app.
- This information can be found on the PTO website under support.

Opened floor to any questions or concerns:

- There was a question about how parents can donate water or anything else needed like the PTO provided. It was suggested that parents contact their child's teacher and see what is needed. The water and snacks from the PTO were very much appreciated and the teachers are already running out of them.

There were 23 attendees for the PTO meeting including the PTO board.

Next PTO meeting will be April 26, 2021.