

Mount Vernon Exploratory PTO Executive Committee

Minutes of Meeting

December 3, 2020

Board meeting took place via Zoom due to Covid-19

OFFICERS PRESENT: Jennifer Puryear, President; Meredith West, Past President; Elene Garrison, Vice President; Emileigh Greene, Treasurer; Anne Marie Braham, Secretary; Jennifer Westbrook, Principal; Jill Borg, Teacher Representative

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The President, Jennifer Puryear, called the meeting to order.
- II. PRESENTATION OF MINUTES AND BOARD APPROVAL: Meredith gave the 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve the minutes from November 11, 2020; Elene gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All votes in favor of approval.
- III. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:
  - a. In-Person & Virtual Update:
    - i. 599 enrolled: 518 in-person and 81 virtual (about 14%)
  - b. Planning for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester/January '21
    - i. 40% of virtual students are returning to in-person
    - ii. Kindergarten is the largest in-person class size with 23 students. We are adding a teacher to kindergarten to lower class size for all kindergarten students.
    - iii. Parents of virtual and in-person students will receive class placement updates
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> quarter reading level assessments show our need to continue to focus on reading, writing and speaking proficiency across all grade levels. Reducing the kindergarten class size should provide paraprofessionals the ability to provide reading support in 1<sup>st</sup> grade.
  - d. Other Updates
    - i. School wide December Dress Ups
      1. Thursday, 12/17: K-2<sup>nd</sup> wear green; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> wear red
      2. Friday, 12/18: pajama day
    - ii. Winter Break, 12/21-1/4
    - iii. Teacher Work Day, 1/4
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jennifer discussed "One and Done" as a Covid-friendly option for the PTO to raise money.
    - i. Date proposed and discussed for fundraiser: March 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The week before would be used to raise support and get everyone excited about the fundraiser.
    - ii. Last year's Boosterthon funds were raised for playground enhancement. Jennifer Westbrook and Jill thought a track for the school might be a good goal, especially considering how much time the students are spending outside right now.

- b. Elene addressed parents' concern regarding parents not being allowed to enter the school. She asked Jennifer Westbrook what the timeline is for permitting parents back in and expressed parents' concern that this is the "new normal." Jennifer explained that visitors come under the "Water Wheel" and that visitors make contact tracing more difficult. The focus is on staying in school and the no visitor entry policy will probably remain for the year. Jennifer Westbrook does not think the policy will continue forever because it is important to teachers.
- c. Meredith addressed concern about families in need of assistance at Christmas. Jennifer Westbrook explained that this assistance is now handled through community groups. Information is given to families and then the families apply through them. Bethany Nix would know more.

Submitted by Anne Marie Braham, Secretary