

Mount Vernon Exploratory PTO Executive Committee  
September 5, 2024  
Meeting at MVES

Officers Present: Ashley Hollifield, President; Elizabeth Latta, Past President; Christy Malcom, Treasurer; Jennifer Mullis, Secretary; Jennifer Westbrook, Principal; Jessica Smith, Teacher Representative

- I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER: The President, Ashley Hollifield, called the meeting to order.
- II. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
  - A. September enrollment is 647 students, which is up from 639 at this time last year.
    - i. K-3 - average class size 22 (19-24)
    - ii. 4-5 - average class size 26 (25-29)
    - iii. We have 1 more average student per class than last year. This may be due to the loss of the Cares act position, which was used as a classroom teacher to reduce class size.
  - B. Families
    - i. Begins this Friday morning. Helps to foster community in school.
    - ii. Will take new pictures tomorrow.
  - C. Curriculums
    - i. Benchmark - This is the new literacy curriculum that is the state standard. There is a learning curve with ongoing staff education and training. The curriculum provides more books, magazines, physical supplies, and education and coaches for teachers.
    - ii. Map Reading Fluency - This is administered for all K-3 students. It monitors reading foundational skills and screens for issues, ie: dyslexia. Per J. Smith it is more like an activity than a test for kids.
    - iii. Eureka Math - Math curriculum for K-5. This is the second year of full implementation.
    - iv. Gkids - This is for Kindergarten only and goes on throughout the year.
  - D. Upcoming Dates
    - i. September 6 - Gold Out for Childhood Cancer Awareness, Families
    - ii. September 11 - Patriot Day, wear red, white, and blue.
    - iii. September 13 - K-3rd Grade MAP Family Reports go home
    - iv. September 17 - K-5th Grade MAP Reading Fluency Student Reports go home, 3rd-5th Grade Progress Reports go home.
    - v. September 18 - Picture Day
    - vi. September 19 - Curriculum Night with sessions at 5:45 and 6:30.
    - vii. September 26 - Kids' Brains and Screens at Eagle Ranch
    - viii. September 27 - NHHS Homecoming
- III. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Playgroud
    - i. Playground updates are done except for painting lines on the basketball court. Volunteers will do this.

- ii. Zach from the turf company is going to repair issues in turf on Gaga Pit. E. Latta to coordinate this.
  - iii. Teachers report positive feedback on playground updates.
  - iv. Per E. Latta's conversation with the county, the box drains can be removed from the playground. J. Westbrook needs to email the county to confirm that this is okay per her.
  - v. Spent about \$25,000 on playground updates.
- B. Budget Updates
- i. See updated budget, it is not much different than previously presented.
  - ii. We need an invoice for the special programs request for additional dividers.
  - iii. Christy is waiting on information from Missy to approve use of the remaining allotment from 2023-2024. Teacher allotment check has not cleared the bank.
  - iv. J. Westbrook to follow up with Missy on these items.
- IV. President's Report
- A. Our 1st Back to School Bash was a success. We think everyone enjoyed the laid back atmosphere.
- B. Fall Dates:
- i. 10/4/2024 Pumpkin Picnic
  - ii. 12/20/2024 Winter Literacy Day - PTO cookies and pictures with Santa. J. Westbrook listed options for Santa pictures. (1) Get Strawbridge to do individual Santa photos on a different day or (2) we can do class Santa photos on the day of with a different photographer and PTO would book this. Executive committee agreed to proceed with class photo option.
  - iii. We are doing WW on 12/20 instead of Wednesday that week.
- C. Spring Dates:
- i. 2/24/25-2/28/25 One and Done
  - ii. 3/7/25 Movie Night - Keri Turner and Alyson Wheeler to chair.
  - iii. 04/24/25 Proposed Talent Show. PTO would like to make this an annual spring event for students and parents to attend. Can combine with Art Show.
    - a) A combined Talent Show and Art show has been approved by J. Westbrook.
    - b) They will be using a new company that offers framed art in addition to offering the art applied to different items, but it doesn't have the same art show feel with art on display.
    - c) We may need to change the name of this event to reflect Art/Talent night.
    - d) E. Latta suggested maybe adding a class project to put on display for an art show feel.
    - e) J. Smith wondered if we can display the originals after they are scanned to this company.
    - f) This event will be every other year per J. Westbrook.

