

Mount Vernon Exploratory PTO Executive Committee
October 10, 2024
Meeting at MVES

Officers Present: Ashley Hollifield, President; Christy Malcom, Treasurer; Jennifer Mullis, Secretary; Jennifer Westbrook, Principal; Jessica Smith, Teacher Representative; Bethany Nix, Counselor

- I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER: The President, Ashley Hollifield, called the meeting to order.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September meeting minutes were presented. A. Hollifield approves, C. Malcolm seconds.
- III. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
 - A. September enrollment update - 645 students enrolled
 - i. K-3rd - average class size 22 (19-24)
 - ii. 4th-5th - average class size 26 (24-29)
 - B. Custodian Appreciation Day was appreciated earlier this month. Bus Driver Appreciation Week coming up this month, PTO to support.
 - C. Literacy and Professional Learning Continues
 - i. Benchmark Coach going into classroom sessions K/1, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{4}{5}$
 - ii. Grade level sessions with coach on PL workday
 - iii. GA Literacy Modules - all certified teachers completing 25+ hours of training by May 2025
 - iv. Peer observations will be going on a lot during 2nd and 3rd quarter.
 - D. Math Fluency Masters - Will recognize for 1st and 2nd semester, sponsored by a partner in education.
 - E. NHCEF Proposal was shared with us. This a proposal that was presented from MVES to NHCEF for next year's funds. School will get funds at the end of this school year.
 - i. Classroom updates: blinds/window coverings, hovercams, rugs, furniture
 - a) J. Westbrook requests for PTO to investigate window coverings. Do we keep blinds or do we change to another window covering? Dimple paper?
 - b) Every pod has 3 outside classrooms with a door window and other windows that needs to be addressed
 - c) How do we want the exterior to look?
 - d) J. Westbrook requests for PTO to price window coverings and get a mock up. Hopefully NHCEF funds can cover part of it, but it will be up to the current NHCEF board approval.
 - ii. Ozobot robots - 2 sets of 12 for STEM/Explore Lab/checkout
 - iii. Grade level and extracurricular project-based learning supplies
 - F. Upcoming Dates
 - i. 10/7-18 Food Drive Challenge
 - ii. 10/11
 - a) NHHS Homecoming Parade

- b) \$1 Hat Day for PBIS
- c) 1st Quarter Report Cards
- iii. 10/14-15 Holiday for Students/Staff
- iv. 10/16 Teacher Workday (no school for students)
- v. 10/17 Watch DOGS Pizza Night 6:00 PM
- vi. 10/21-25 Bus Driver Appreciation Week
- vii. 10/28-11/1 Sources of Strength Week
- viii. 11/5 Teacher Workday (no school for students)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Request for remaining teacher allocation from last year - \$2,600, C. Malcom needs receipts from purchases to approve that expense. J. Westbrook to follow up.
- B. PTO is increasing funding for Literacy Day to cover Lola Schaefer author visit on December 20.
- C. Frozen Frenzee - PBIS reward first quarter celebration on 10/23, for all students except office referrals. J. Smith requests PTO to find funding for this.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Pumpkin Picnic was a success.
- B. Mental Health
 - i. How can PTO help/support the "at risk students"?
 - a) Mentorship
 - (1) Per B. Nix if you train to be a mentor, you cannot be a mentor at your child's school.
 - (2) B. Nix suggests talking to friends at other schools or church members to see if they would like to train as mentors for MVES. We could possibly train to mentor at another school and those parents mentor here.
 - (3) Centerpoint - contact Elaine Hortman. She can come to churches or clubs to talk with them about mentorship.
 - b) Big Brother/Big Sister
 - (1) B. Nix thinks Centerpoint trains this. She will talk to them about how this program works.
 - (2) PTO to reach out to NH Atlas and Stem programs.
 - (3) B. Nix requests for us to find people and send them to her.
 - c) Tech use at school and on the bus
 - (1) School policies per J. Westbrook
 - (a) School Policy - all electronic device use (phones, watch, computers, etc) must be at the direction of a teacher.
 - (b) Bus Policy - all electronic devices that may interfere with bus communication equipment or safe operation of the bus are prohibited.
- C. Lockdowns
 - i. A. Hollifield asked about protocols for volunteers and substitutes.

- a) Per J. Westbrook, volunteer procedure - lockdown in place or with the nearest staff member. All doors should lock when closed, including the workroom.
- b) Substitutes - They have safety information in their sub folder from their teacher.

D. Veteran's Day

- i. Avery and Eric - We are inviting them to the Veteran's Day Parade. Per J. Westbrook, Mrs. Harper is coordinating this, so PTO will contact her about inviting them.

E. Author Visit - PTO would like to do another author visit with Abby Burle if she is available. J. Westbrook says to contact Mrs. Ruis about this.

F. Policy on school lunch food waste

- i. USDA allows school districts to utilize Offer vs. Serve, students are not required to take every food on the serving line. They must select at least 3, 1 must be a fruit or veggie and the other 2 must be "full components".
- ii. PTO asked if we can save leftover, unopened items to offer for children that might need them. J. Westbrook does not think this is allowed.

VI. ADJOURN

Submitted by Jennifer Mullis, Secretary