

Mount Vernon Exploratory PTO Executive Committee
August 28, 2025
Meeting at MVES

Officers Present: Elizabeth Withrow, President; Melanie Martin, Treasurer; Ashley Hollifield, Past President; Erin Webb, Vice President; Jennifer Mullis, Secretary; Jennifer Westbrook, Principal; Chase Armour, Assistant Principal; Kaitlin Smith, Teacher Representative

- I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER: The President, Elizabeth Withrow, called the meeting to order.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Elizabeth Withrow motioned to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2025 board meeting; Ashley Hollifield gave the second; all votes in favor.
- III. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
 - A. Enrollment update - 653 students
 - i. K-3 - average class size 22 (21-24)
 - ii. 4-5 - average class size 25 (24-26)
 - B. Thank you PTO for beginning Staff Appreciation this month with Wonderful Wednesdays.
 - C. Thank you PTO for our new shades. Teacher feedback on these has been great.
 - D. Families begin next Friday morning.
 - E. Benchmark Workshop - K-5th grade core literacy curriculum (2nd full year full implementation)
 - F. Eureka Math - K-5th grade math curriculum (3rd year full implementation)
 - G. We are completing beginning of the year assessments and 1st quarter instructional planning.
 - i. GKIDS
 - ii. Amira K-3rd Reading Fluency Screener
 - iii. MAP K-5th (Family report will come home 9/12/25)
 - H. April PTO board meeting - Ms. Westbrook proposed 4/28/26. PTO Board to discuss and confirm this date.
 - I. Requests:
 - i. Student request - 5th grade requests 4 square.
 - ii. Teacher request - teacher eating area refresh. Teachers are requesting a refresh with utensils and other supplies. Kaitlin Smith will assist with getting feedback from teachers on their needs.
 - J. Upcoming Dates
 - i. September 2 - Lunch visitors begin
 - ii. September 5 -
 - a) Families
 - b) Gold Out for Childhood Cancer Awareness
 - iii. September 9 - Volunteer applications open
 - iv. September 11 -
 - a) Wear Red, White, and Blue in honor of Patriot Day
 - b) Curriculum Night (Session times: 5:45 and 6:30)
 - v. September 12 -

- a) K-3rd Grade MAP Family Reports go home
 - b) 3rd-5th Grade Progress Reports go home
 - c) Gold Out for Childhood Cancer Awareness
- vi. September 17 - Picture Day
- vii. September 19 - NHHS Homecoming

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. The yearly operating budget was reviewed and approved. Melanie Martin made a motion to approve, Elizabeth Withrow gave the second. All votes in favor.
- B. The following updates were added this summer in addition to our yearly operating budget with classroom allotments:
 - i. Push Broom \$18.97
 - ii. Outdoor Kitchen \$875
 - iii. Security Shades \$26,980

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Old Business
 - i. Back to School Bash was a great success. It was well attended and we had positive feedback.
 - ii. Security Shades
 - a) Security shades have been installed on the front half of the school. PTO will continue to fundraise for the other half this year to finish replacing all exterior blinds with security shades.
 - b) Ms. Westbrook mentioned that teachers may be agreeable to decreasing allotments to reallocate money towards finishing the shade project. The funds have already been allocated to the school per Elizabeth Withrow, but this will be considered during spring budget planning. We will revisit this in the spring and get feedback from teachers if needed.
 - iii. Wonderful Wednesday
 - a) Rachel Gibson is heading this up and they have filled all slots for the year. Yay!
- B. New Business
 - i. One and Done
 - a) PTO proposed dates in late January or February. This would overlap with One School/One Book per Ms. Westbrook. We discussed other possible dates and decided on November which has no major conflicts per Ms. Westbrook. PTO will decide on dates for this and communicate back to Ms. Westbrook to confirm as soon as possible.
 - ii. Pumpkin Picnic
 - a) Pumpkin Picnic is on October 4th. Brittany Conner is the committee chair. Planning is going well. We will be utilizing North Hall High School student volunteers.
 - iii. PTO requested adding a meeting date in late April to wrap up end of the school year. We will discuss 4/28/26 as proposed by Ms. Westbrook.

iv. Playground Plans

- a) We would like to replace two older pieces of equipment that are showing signs of significant wear with one large piece with an attached shade or the capability of future shade attachment. The county has already removed the monkey bars that were broken on one of these pieces per PTO's request.
- b) A portion of One and Done funds will go towards saving for this project.

v. Winter STEAM Wonderland

- a) Abby Merritt is heading this up. It would be best for PTO to meet with her about this per Mrs. Westbrook. PTO will contact her directly.

VI. ADJOURN

Submitted by Jennifer Mullis, Secretary