

Sporting Hill PTO Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2019

Attendees:

Sarah Yerger, Camille Wenger, Maria Petrilak, Ashlee Zuvich, Nikalene Cole, Matthew Cordier, Carl Jurcik, Jenni Gery, Jill Laws, Ryan Patterson, Kevin Wehnau, Cindy Deremer, Mike Deremer, Tina Shehan, Kristi Hoffman, Casey Huntington, Shiela Smith, Nicole Philipkosky, Heidi Havens, Diana Suracka, Lauren Stout, Michelle Long, Jimmy Connell, Kate Maffei, Trisha Fisher, Nicole Miller, Trina Perva, Katrin Walker, Erica Burzynski, Brian Rupp, Dayl Lynn Shaddock, Cindy Heidelbaugh, Dr. Frederick Withum, Michelle Virtue.

Opening:

Sarah Yerger, President, opened the meeting at 6:01pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Correspondence: None

A Video by Mr. Seylar was presented which included an update on the upcoming school musical, Annie Kids. The performances will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 2:15 and 7:00pm at Sporting Hill.

Dr. Withum, Cumberland Valley Superintendent, presented the following:

There have been some recent changes to the graduation requirements for CVHS. The required 23 credits to graduate remains unchanged. For some time, CV has offered high school (HS) level courses at the middle school level without providing credits for these courses. Some students can have completed up to 5 HS classes by the time the exit middle school. Now students who are taking HS courses will get credit no matter when they are taken. Non-traditional ways to take classes have also been well received, including summer classes. Increasingly, students are meeting graduation requirements before their senior year. The district has tracked students once they graduated beginning in 2013. 80% of students received acceptance to colleges. 75% of those accepted students actually attended college. By their sophomore year, another 20% of those students did not return to college. 6 years following graduation, of that 80%, only 50% achieved a post-secondary diploma. 40% of the entire graduating class received a post-secondary degree. There is a need to better prepare students for the world of work. We have added to our graduation requirements, the opportunity to receive one of the following certificates on top of a diploma: Workforce Ready, Career and Post-Secondary Ready, and/or Advanced Post-Secondary Ready. Criteria for these certificates can be found on the website. A traditional high school diploma without certificates is still available and certificates are not required. Students can change their course throughout high school.

Dr. Withum provided answers to questions that were raised:

Students taking HS level courses in middle school will receive credit, but their grades in these courses will not affect their HS GPA. The State now requires students to begin to develop a career portfolio beginning in elementary school, and through middle and high school, building on it each year. Currently Junior Achievement already covers these requirements at the elementary level. The District will maintain all of the student records to meet this requirement and will report them after 5th grade. This initiative was begun because of the increasing need for skilled workers and to address the problem of many adults without a degree that have college debt. The goal is to get students into more skilled careers and assure that they graduate with a plan. Are you having conversations with parents regarding saving for post-secondary education? The opportunity is there but the district cannot sponsor a program that supports a for profit business to do this. The district is open to having the state come in to educate on this. Why are

we are starting this so young? The State criteria will be met by things students have already been doing. We have laid the required criteria over our curriculum and found that we have already had most in place with some tweaking. What is the district doing to address any increased anxiety, depression and psychological issues that may be associated with implementing this? One thing this program conveys is that college is not the only avenue. This can help reduce stress. Nationwide and within CV, mental health is the number one issue with adolescents. CV has pulled various professionals into a single environment, called the Student Services Department, in order to be more efficient in helping students. We have created a Responsive Classroom Environment at the elementary level to connect with the students and to foster a community. The Safe to Say program initially received a high volume of calls but this was expected and has come down, as was also expected. We have a committee to make the data from this program available to the public. The district is monitoring those calls and uses resources that we have to manage them. How will the growth of the district will be handled? The most critical level is at the middle school. We are looking to purchase additional land and are looking into grade realignments. We do not want to redistrict and then have to redistrict again shortly after, so we are trying to plan accordingly. What is the timeline? The Board is about a year behind when they need to make the decision. Numerous feasibility studies have been presented. All information can be found online in the Facilities Committee agendas from past board meetings. Is there a plan for full day Kindergarten? We initially planned for full day Kindergarten when the board planned for the last expansion. We have grown so rapidly that this has not been possible. Our rate of growth has exceeded the expected growth. How are field trips determined and what is stopping us from accessing the resources in the nearby area? We try to connect all field trips to the curriculum. Safety and cost issues have prevented some field trips to surrounding areas. In the past, there had been a growing discrepancy between what the district and parents funded for field trips and the district wanted to make them equal throughout all the schools. Are there plans for the Good Hope building? There are plans to use the building, but nothing has been decided yet. It may be used as a swing space allowing for renovations little at a time. Or possibly as another elementary school connecting with Hampden. Is there a way that the board meetings can be live-streamed? The board discussed this and for a number of reasons they decided not to move ahead yet. There are some challenges and it is being looked into by the board. Dr. Withum expressed that he would like to return at a future date to update our PTO on some of these topics.

Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and three errors were noted: The date for Mini-mini THON should be Feb. 8, The date for Pack 196's Pinewood Derby should be January 26, and Tina Shehan's name was misspelled. Motion to approve the minutes with these changes was made by Ryan Patterson. Second: Ashlee Zuvich. All in favor.

Principal's Report: Presented by Dayl Lynn Shaddock

- The board will approve construction for Sporting Hill in March.
- Conferences are coming up on March 7 from 4-8pm. These are voluntary.
- March 20-21 is Kindergarten registration.
- Library books have arrived. We received 792 books.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Camille Wenger

- With an outstanding deposit, Silent auction will come in \$190 over budget. Our loss for Bingo (which was planned) was approximately \$1800.
- As a follow up on our discussion of Insurance coverage: The district covers most of the concerned areas, but it was recommended to have extra Officers coverage, which we purchased. We approved \$200 for this but only used \$15. We increased our fidelity coverage to \$50,000 as well.

- We are done with fundraising for the year. We have a fair amount of expenses coming up.

Motion to approve the budget report was made by Katrin Walker. Second: Tina Shehan. All in favor.

Cub Scout Pack 196 Report: Presented by Ryan Patterson

- We will be actively recruiting for all groups next year, including at Kindergarten registration. We have a total of 35 members this year.
- We recently had a STEM meeting that was well received.
- March 23 is our Pancake Breakfast at Sporting Hill from 8-11am. There will be a Star Wars theme.

Old Business:

1. As our Race for Education incentive, we would like to purchase t-shirts for all students. They will have a new bulldog logo and will acknowledge all of our sponsors. Cost is \$6.25 per shirt for a total of \$3818. This would come from the money already budgeted for the incentive. This will not replace the Bulldog t-shirts. Motion to approve \$3818 for t-shirts was made by Jenni Gery. Second: Tina Shehan. All in favor.
2. Volunteer needs: There are open positions on the PTO Board and we need to begin planning for incoming officers in March. We have not had a volunteer to take over for Treasurer and there was discussion regarding amending the bylaws to allow the Treasurer to serve for 3 years so that Camille can continue on next year if needed. Ashlee Zuvich volunteered for the Vice President position. Mayfair volunteers are also needed. Jill Laws presented that she needs a prize coordinator and cake walk coordinator for the Mayfair team. In addition, many volunteers are needed on the day of Mayfair which will be May 10.
3. Community Aide partnership: We have already received donations and they will pick them up March 4. We will hold clothing drives quarterly.

New Business:

1. Mr. Jurcik requested funds to purchase a backdrop for our TV studio, WDOG, where students serve as the technical crew and news crew. This could be used for other events as well, such as the Bulldog ball. It would be vinyl, measures 8x8 and would cost \$325. Motion to approve \$325 for the backdrop was made by Jenni Gery. Second: Tina Shehan. All in favor.
2. Mr. Rupp requested a Bluetooth speaker for use primarily in PE to replace the old, inadequate speaker and which would work with our current system. Mr. Seylar will be able to use it for chorus and it can be used at other events as well. Cost is \$449. Motion to approve \$450 for the speaker was made by Katrin Walker. Second: Jenni Gery. All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: was made at 8:30pm by Jill Laws. Second: Ashlee Zuvich. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Heidelbaugh, Recording Secretary