

VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL PTO MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2010

Attendance: Kimberly Nelson, Sue Anderson, Nick Zakrajsek, Catherine Hepler, Shoba Agneshwar, Sharon Kobylarz, Anne Dwyer, Monika Deskur, Lisa Kerns, Lisa Kelly, Beth Wilton, Chris Livingstone, Virginia Ng, Cindy Milkovich and Kathy Buglione.

Call to Order:

President called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- The November 2009 meeting minutes contained one correction. Remaining PTO meetings in 2010 will be held in Room 181 at the High School with the exception of the meeting in May which will be held at the Middle School. Lisa Kerns made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Shoba Agneshwar seconded it and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report for 11/4/09 to 1/14/10 was reviewed.
- Sharon Kobylarz made a motion to approve the report which was seconded by Shoba Agneshwar and the report was approved.

Principal's Report:

- The ongoing Superintendent search has included a group of students who have been committed to their task. They are Daniel Myers, Colin Gerner, Abby Jacoski, Kali Kies, Gregory Bai, Danielle Moon, Michael Canino, Nate Stillman, Charlotte Federowicz, and Rebecca Kavanaugh. These students should be commended for their dedication to the task at hand and for their desire to select the best candidate for our new Superintendent.

President's Report:

- Thank you notes were received from Dan Warner for his scholarship award last spring and from Mary Surdey for the snacks that were provided for the Leadership seminar last fall.
- The PTO-sponsored **Back Pack Program** through the Food Bank is currently in progress. Each club and sports team is assigned a food item for their members to donate. The school is organizing student participation and the back packs will be assembled on **Wednesday, January 20**. Parents who are interested in helping out should contact Kim Nelson at KNelson002@stny.rr.com.

- A seminar by Merryl Wallach, Pupil Services Counselor, will be held on **March 10**, entitled “Is it teenage angst or depression? How to tell the difference.” We will meet in Room 181 at 7 p.m.

Membership: 185 members currently

Building Planning Team: Currently in the process of updating, revising and editing the Student Strategies Support for Academic Achievement pamphlet. Plan to distribute soon.

Character Education Partnership: Upcoming meeting on January 27 to review the student surveys from the fall. Parent committee has been expanded to include a representative from each school in the District. Parent involvement and support is important. A Binghamton University intern is participating in the research. Rachel’s Challenge, Part 2 is scheduled for September. BOCES will be involved in the effort, as well.

Newsletter: Should be coming out soon.

Hospitality: The Holiday Tea was a great success and the staff was very appreciative. Thanks to all who baked, contributed and helped out. Sheila Hodge and Liz Goodwin will be the new chairpersons of this committee.

Grants: Some parameters for approval of a grant by the Grant Review committee were reviewed. The committee will discuss and report back to the membership.

Honors Night Reception: Nothing to report at this time.

District Council: Monthly meeting will be next week.

Academic Awards Night Reception: Nothing to report at this time.

Board of Education: The ongoing Superintendent search has been narrowed down to three candidates. An offer has been made and an announcement will be made on February 1, 2010.

Fundraising: An order sheet will be attached to each month’s minutes if members are interested in ordering any Spirit items.

Staff Luncheon: Nothing to report at this time.

Nominations: Nothing to report at this time.

Grade 9 Rep: Nothing to report at this time.

Grade 10 Rep: Bottle drive coming up on February 13 at the High School.

Grade 11 Rep: Nothing to report at this time.

Grade 12 Rep: Nothing to report at this time.

Senior All-Nighter: First meeting was in December. Committees are forming. Another meeting will be in February. Businesses have been solicited and parent solicitation will be coming up. Fundraising will begin soon.

Blood Drive: Nothing to report at this time.

Teacher Representative: Midterms are coming up the last week in January. The Junior Prom will be held on April 17 at the Owego Treadway with Louie G. as the DJ. The theme is "Jungle." The next meeting is on the first Thursday in February if parents are interested in attending. A team of teachers is being formed for Vestal School Foundation's Trivia Night on January 29.

SRO: Officer Nick is working with a group of students who have expressed an interest in cleaning up and refurbishing the outside courtyard next to the cafeteria. The team is assembling a grant application that would allow them to build a stage, fix the benches, plant new bushes and flowers, etc. This is an area that was untouched by the renovation and has been requested by the students as a good place to gather.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 6 p.m. in Room 181.

This report respectfully submitted by Anne Dwyer, PTO Recording Secretary, January 15, 2010.