

VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

November 4, 2009

Attendance: Kimberly Nelson, Sharon Kobylarz, Anne Dwyer, Shoba Agneshwar, Catherine Hepler, Nancy Zimmet, Cindy Milkovich, Lisa Kerns, Lisa Kelly, Sue Wendell, Dianne Weiner, Catherine Maczko, Glenna Pittaressi and Monika Deskur

Call to Order

President called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Officer's Reports

Approval of Minutes:

- The October 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed. Shoba Agneshwar made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Anne Dwyer, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report for October was reviewed.
- Sharon Kobylarz made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Kim Nelson, and the report was approved.

Principal's Report:

- The Principal discussed using the IB learner profile in all courses to inspire curiosity, creativity, risk-taking and critical thinking among students. These and other important 21st century skills are essential to prepare students for successful participation in a changing global society.
- This year's Club Fair was a very successful pilot program. Many clubs reported increased enrollment as a result of the Fair. It was helpful to offer the Fair right after Rachel's Challenge because some students indicated that they were more interested in getting involved in school and community activities after participating in the assembly.
- There are new initiatives to recognize students for contributing to a caring and respectful environment. They are called "Random Acts of Kindness" and "Catch Someone Doing Something Good". The Principal will use the morning announcements and other strategies to recognize students.
- Students in several clubs and athletic teams are active in their community. The Principal started the school year by asking students to demonstrate leadership by becoming more involved in the community. Ms. Hepler is very proud of the students for identifying needs in our community and for reaching out to support others.
- Parent volunteers are needed for the King Bruin Dance. Please call Ms. Hepler (757-2281) or Mr. Dake (757-2242) to volunteer. A parent mailing is coming home with information regarding the KB.

President's Report:

- **A chairperson is needed for the Staff Luncheon.** Interested members should contact Kim Nelson (KNelson002@stny.rr.com).
- Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are as follows: January 14, February 10, March 10, April 14 and May 10 (Meet the Candidates Night). All meetings will be in Rm. 181, except for May 10, which will be at VMS.
- Subway has cards available for purchase which will benefit our school with a portion of the proceeds. Our school code is **CJLW**. A reminder about the Target card fundraiser as well. These are easy ways for our PTO to fundraise.

Committee Reports

Membership: Our current enrollment is 154, which is down from last year.

Building Planning Team: The brochure, “*Supportive Strategies to Assist Students,*” is being updated, reviewed and revised. The IB/21st century skills connection is being reviewed as well. The team will attend the district BPT training. Teacher reps are Larry Dake, Terry Dempsey and Sean Bowers. Student reps are Alexis Avery and Margot Weiss. Parent reps are Lisa Kerns, Maria Ilioff and Rene Painter.

Character Education Partnership: Student survey compilation continues. Hope to report findings in January. Web site is being updated.

Newsletter:

Hospitality: A Welcome Back breakfast was held on Oct. 22. Thanks to all who helped out. Everything went very well and the staff and faculty were very pleased.

Needed - A new chairperson for this committee is needed for next year, as the current chairs will be “retiring” at the end of this year.

Grants: The committee approved a request from Ms. Zhang (Chinese teacher) for \$200 to fund a Chinese New Year celebration. Mrs. Zimmet brought a grant application of \$200 to the meeting. Members of the English department will take a group of eleventh-grade students to a performance of “*Othello*” at the Firehouse Theatre in February. The funds will be used for students who cannot afford the ticket price. Kim Nelson made a motion to approve the expense, and it was seconded by Glenna Pittaressi. The motion passed. Discussion continued about putting guidelines in place for future grant applications. The committee will meet and present potential guidelines in January.

Honors Night Reception: Nothing to report at this time.

District Council:

Academic Awards Night: Glenna Pittaressi will chair this committee. Nothing further to report at this time.

Board of Education: The Superintendent's search continues. Capital campaign winding down.

Fundraising: See President's report.

Staff Luncheon: Nothing to report at this time.

Nominations: Nothing to report at this time.

Grade 9 Rep:

Grade 10 Rep:

Grade 11 Rep: Concession stand has had a great turn-out recently. November 6 is the last game for the concessions. Next up is the Junior Prom.

Grade 12 Rep: Cookie dough orders delivered.

Senior All-Niter: Meetings will begin soon.

Blood Drive: Students will attend Red Cross presentation on 11/30 and 12/1. Drive is scheduled for 12/3. Student government be involved by creating posters, making announcements to promote the event and volunteering all 3 days. **Parent volunteers are needed on December 3 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Parents are also needed to provide baked goods for the canteen.** Please contact Nancy Monteith at 785-9698 or nmonteith@stny.rr.com to volunteer or bake.

Teacher Rep: Thank you for the delicious breakfast on 10/22!

School Resource Officer: No report this month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 6 p.m.

This report respectfully submitted by Anne Dwyer, PTO Recording Secretary, November 6, 2009.