



Vestal District Council November 17, 2021

Present: Amy MacDonald, Becky Kaiven, Jessica Zwierzynski, Josh Gannon, Kate Lynch, Katie Balkaya, Mark Browning, Marla French, Mehreen Khan, Patrick Clarke III, Regina Felice, Shannon Matolka, Sheri Esteban-Elie, and Sue Wendell.

Minutes: October minutes were approved.

President's/Treasurer's Report:

- Josh Gannon, the Director of Athletics and Physical Education, talked about planning for the next Homecoming Event. They are trying to make it a District event with more involvement from the Parent-Teacher Associations from all the Vestal schools. In addition, they are looking for a Float from each school that will be part of the Homecoming Parade.
- Member Unit dues for the District Council are \$150. If you have not already done so, please make the check payable to the Vestal District Council, and mail it to Kate Lynch, 17 Overbrook Dr., Apalachin, NY 13732. Thank you!

Administration: (Patrick Clarke III / Regina Felice)

- **COVID-19 Vax Clinic for ages 5 – 11:** The District partnered with the Broome County Health Dept. to host a vax clinic for eligible children today in the VHS cafeteria. Slots for this free clinic were filled shortly after information was shared with our families on November 8.
- **COVID-19 Updated Information:** Our Back-to-School 2021-22 web page was recently updated with resources to help families find COVID-19 vax clinics for their students. Two new links added are NYS Vax for Kids website and NY.Gov Vaccine Info... In addition, Broome County Health Dept. requested that we share with our families information on how a positive COVID-19 Home Test could be reported. This link was placed on the same web page, along with a link to a helpful document outlining Next Steps after Testing.
- **Digital Equity Survey:** The NYS Education Department is asking school districts to survey their families regarding digital resource access for students. A website article with a link to the letter from NYSED is at the top of the Parents web page of the District website. Secondary students will take the survey online during the school day. Parents of elementary students are asked to complete a hard-copy survey. The timeline for distribution of this survey is still being determined.
- **Musicals:** Hopefully not stealing any one's thunder, but the Vestal HS musical will be "Mamma Mia!" and at VMS they will be performing "Mary Poppins."
- **Updated BOE Conference Room:** The Board of Education conference room received a facelift to bring it into the 21st century, technology-wise. Seating for the BOE members and the audience was also flipped to enhance viewing of video presentations and teleconferencing.
- **Transportation Issues:** Due to quarantines, medical issues and lack of new hires, the Transportation Dept. is in serious need of new bus drivers. Advertisements and hiring-benefit incentives are ongoing. Bus runs have been doubled up and multiple runs have been changed to try and maintain student pick-ups and drop-offs... In addition, the District is looking for new staff across the District in various departments – including Food Service, Clerical, Custodial and Maintenance, Paraprofessional roles, Substitutes for all of the above, and Substitute Teachers.

Administration Report Continued....

- The first marking period ended last Friday. Student Report Cards and Elementary level Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up. The District will be communicating more about the transition from the Narrative Report Cards to the Standards-Based Report Cards for the Elementary schools.
- The State Test Scores are in. VCSD performed very well in the region, especially in ELA. We did great in Math as well!
- We have internal data to help us make decisions about academic interventions and the proper support for our students if they require it.
- The elementary students will visit Detective Reads-a-Lot, aka Literary Specialist Sarah Evans, at the District Administration Building and use their Word Detectives skills. They will be part of a Super-Secret Detective Agency. This fun visit is part of their Reading Unit in ELA.
- Our fourth-graders will be going on a field trip to Roberson Museum to the Haudenosaunee exhibition, which displays the history and culture of The People of the Longhouse.
- Windsor Central School District is hosting a History Challenge. We will be sending teams from the middle school to compete.
- ***Seal of Civic Readiness:*** VCSD is one of the schools selected by the NYS Education Department to pilot the Seal of Civic Readiness at Vestal High School. Students have an opportunity to get a special recognition that would go on their diploma. This program is similar to the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. The Seal of Civic Readiness prepares students to become good citizens with civic knowledge and active civic participation.
- We are embedding many of the Seal of Civic Readiness requirements into our Social Studies curriculum to ensure that all our students benefit from this program.

Board of Education: (Mark Browning)

- The Spotlight was on Tioga Hills at the BOE meeting. Principal Hayley Crimmins shared highlights from each grade level.
- We received reports about the number of students and staff who test positive for COVID -19 and the number of people who have to quarantine due to contact tracing. Unfortunately, the numbers are a lot higher this year.

Member Unit Reports:

AFRICAN ROAD: (Katie Balkaya)

- We had our in-person Trunk or Treat. It was a hit!
- A Virtual Veterans Day Assembly was held last Wednesday.
- The Turkey Trot is coming up this Monday and Tuesday.
- We are doing a Tall Pines Farm fundraiser.

CLAYTON AVENUE: (Krista Soltis)

- No report.

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY: (Shannon Matolka)

- The Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up.
- School Picture Day is on November 28.
- We had our Spirit Week in October.
- The GSCA bought pumpkins for all the students in the school. Each class received a large pumpkin, and we had a Pumpkin Decorating Contest.
- We are in the middle of One School, One Book right now.

- Spirit Wear, Barnes and Noble, and the Poinsettia Sale fundraisers are coming up.
- We are also planning a Thankful Week.

TIOGA HILLS: (Jessica Zwierzynski / Becky Kaiven)

- Our students received goodie bags for the Fall Party.
- This school year's first Teacher Appreciation Event is coming up this week.
- The Square 1 Art fundraiser is going on.
- Our Spirit Wear sale is also up and running. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards our fifth grade.

VESTAL HILLS: (Sue Wendell)

- We had a Drive-Through Parade which was received well by the students and families.
- Parents as Reading Partners program just started.
- The school photos are in. We used the services of Sean Murphy Studios.

VESTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL: (Amy MacDonald/Marla French)

- The PTO partnered with the Building Planning Team to increase support for the staff, students, and families.
- VMS families brought in Cider, Donuts, and Coffee to show their appreciation for the teachers and staff who are doing a fantastic job.
- We have a new PTO Vice President.
- Students will be given a chance to try out their lockers after they are installed.

VESTAL HIGH SCHOOL: (Kate Lynch/Sheri Esteban-Elie)

- The Field Hockey team made it to the States but lost in the Final Four game.
- The Girls Varsity Soccer Team won Sectionals for the 11th time in a row.
- The Marching Band came 4th at the Championships.
- Auditions for “Mama Mia!” are going on.
- Student Government is trying to collect 1000 holiday cards for local Nursing Homes.
- Our seniors visited BU earlier this week.
- The Red Cross will hold a presentation for the PE classes to encourage the students to sign up and donate. The actual Blood Drive will be off-site.
- The students set up a Food Pantry at VHS.

OLD BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

- We will not have a meeting in December. Happy Holidays!

Officers for 2020-21: President:	Amy MacDonald
Treasurer:	Kate Lynch
Secretary:	Mehreen Khan

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.