

Date: November 17, 2010

Location: Valhalla Commons

Meeting began 6:35 pm

Meeting adjourned: 7:38pm

Next General Meeting:

Date: January 19th

Location: Valhalla Commons

Time: 6:30 pm

Attendees:

Principal Jason Smith, Jaleane Moore, Jack and Vicki Chandler, Larry and Aliza Hauser, Monty Potter, Rachel Jorren, Tracy Guff, Donelle Chandler, Kimberly Wood, Debbie Susong, Walt Overgard

Comments from the Principal, Mr. Smith

- Mr. Smith would like feedback from parents on how things are going with our children and the school. The district is still working on correcting building issues (such as noise reduction) The soccer goals from the old playground were not saved and the school board currently does not plan on replacing them. Rachel Jorren will contact the Federal Way Soccer Association and see if we can arrange for them to practice at Valhalla and in exchange we can use their goals. Mr. T is also working with Federal Way Soccer Association soccer to arrange for them to coordinate an after school program at Valhalla.
- Some parents who volunteered at the Book Fair brought up a concern regarding safety/security in the building during the school day. The Commons doors are unlocked / open and there's the possibility of someone easily entering those doors unnoticed. It is necessary for all visitors to sign in at the front office. Signage should be posted to inform visitors that they must enter and sign in at the front desk. It was noted that teachers have keys to side doors. Mr. Smith is also aware about doors in the commons and will be looking into it as well. Parents are encouraged to drop off students as near the school start time as possible, so there students don't have to wait as long.
- It was brought to our attention that some students are not under a covered area while waiting for school to begin. Kindergarten students currently wait inside the building. There was a concern that students all entering the same doors/commons areas (as in last year) creates congestion and poses safety issues and Mr. Smith chose to keep kids safe. In extreme weather students have been waiting in the gym. There are @ 500 students outside and Mr. Smith is currently trying to work out the kinks.
- There was a question on how funding is set up for the school. For ex. differences between Title 1 and general school funds and how money is allocated/decided upon? Valhalla is a Title 1 school, but these funds cannot be used for much food at family nights.
- Building budget is around \$60,000. The full-time enrollment drives the amount of money that comes in thus the # of students determine the amount of money the school receives.

Playground tree

There was some discussion on whether the tree that was left from the old school grounds (now on part of the new playground) was the one that teachers and parents had requested be left. It was not that tree, so if there's a reason to remove it to aid in the playground use – it would not be an issue.

4th Grade concession update from Book Fair Movie Night

- Profit of \$186 will aid in funding the 4th grade field trip in Seattle.

Valhalla Student Council Update

- Helped at first respect assembly

Treasurer's report: Jaleane Moore.

- **July**
 - Not much happened \$-wise. Brought in \$82.97
- **September**
 - Balance sheet: Cash on hand \$24,872 in the bank
 - Historically we have kept \$5000 in 'reserve' to use if/as needed. This is a board consensus made year to year.
 - Should be able to revise the budget as originally written since our Walk-a-Thon has brought in \$14,664.17. (Expenses for that are well under the \$1000 budgeted.)
 - The combined profits projected for the Fall, Winter and Spring Fundraisers are less than what was raised with the Walkathon, so the thought is there's no need to schedule more 'fund-raisers' for the year. (other than events planned such as Spring Yard/Garage Sale)
 - Membership income. Doubled income. Currently we have 163 members
- Motion was made and seconded to approve the financials. The motion passed.
- When planning the budget for this year – the committee wanted to be more on the conservative side so funding was reduced in certain areas. Now that our income is more secure, Mr. Smith would like more funding for future for 'What Every Parent Wants to Know' events. Can we raise the funding levels based on the success of this year? For example, the PTA supplied food for the back to school night which was not planned.
- **Amend budget.**
 - If it will fit within our budget/books – we can restore items that had been reduced. Vicki made a motion to make those changes through amending the budget. The motion was passed. Treasurers will work on.
- **Financials Okayed.** Rachel Jorren audited the books during the mtg. and approved cash statements with the checking account information as provided

Ideas to continue/use money raised on how to continue supporting the school /students.**Members at the meeting shared their thoughts...**

- PTA supporting the music program.
- Performing arts do not get funding through Title 1. Performances such as Taproot theater (\$695) take a bit of money so increases in this area can mean more opportunities for our students.
- Drama club support (helps students with reading/self worth-confidence)
- Technology funds (Mr. Smith - Grant for technology)
- Multi-cultural/Community night to bridge the gap between our diverse community
- Sports support.
- Covered area for students
- Update fields Federal Way soccer or baseball back stop
- Mr. T is working on 4 rounds of after school activities (flag football, basketball)
- Math programs (tutoring after school programs) lack of transportation.
Title 1 funds cannot be used for transportation.

- Student volunteer program
- Funding for activity bus for junior high but not elementary
- Language support group for ELL students

Review of grant Program (School and student needs)

- Proposal forms have been used in the past. Perhaps it's time to revise these forms to use again.
- When funds are needed we should always consider/ask for donations. We need to be aware of how we spend our money (for ex. If we can get donations, we should instead simply buying). Extracurricular activities could partner with PTA to aid in using money effectively.

Pancake Breakfast / Food drive

- Both happening simultaneously. Nonperishable donations Dec. 3-10.
- Saturday December 4th:
 - 9:00 to 10:30 Breakfast / Holiday shop and vendors 9 - 1
- So far with vendors: Scentsy, Usborne Books, Petrik Photography, Hearts That Care

Walk-A-Thon Summary: Rachel Jorren – Record Keeper

- Current Total: \$14,664. Matching contributions are approximately are \$535 (Intel, Shakra, Boeing.
- Students with top laps
- Class totals. Shows how much class earned.
- Did well because it was explained as the only fundraiser.
- See attachment
- Several elementary schools have asked how we did it
- Tax writes off to businesses
- Boeing (must be 100 dollars. Volunteers will be paid for their volunteer work.

Book Fair Update

- Total sales were: \$4,134.00 pre sales tax
- The fair is not a 'fundraiser' for the 'PTA' and the money goes to the library. Some parents do not know this and this should be communicated somehow.
- Worked well pairing up with the release on the new 'Wimpy Kid' book.
- Next book fair we could arrange student to bring someone special to lunch. Students then can then bring them to book fair afterwards

Other Fund-raising opportunity

- Show Ware Event
 - Events in Nov. 27th
 - January 21
- Volunteers to work needed with:
 - Mixologist license: (good for 5 years)
 - Food handlers: 2 years
- Receive % of sales (make \$400 - \$1000)
- 11 people have license
- Melanie Miles taking lead to get this started.

Carnival:

- Rachel Jorren will have an early meeting in December to come up with new games.
- She will contact people on the list.

- **Nominating Committee:**

- A nominating committee for 2011-12 PTA officers has been elected. Rachel Jorren nominated Sue McIntyre, Jack Chandler, Elizabeth Bagnell, and Gretchen Battis to be on the nominating committee. After no other nominations, a motion was passed to accept this slate.

Submitted by:
Larry Hauser
Secretary

Approved:

Vickie Chandler
Co-Chair
Monty Potter
Co-Chair