

Van Allen PTO Meeting Minutes

September 14th, 2016

Meeting called to order by Jacki and May 2016 Minutes approved.

Kindergarten Team Presentation

Amy Nolte and Amy Halverson were present for the Kindergarten Team presentation. Mrs. Nolte thanked PTO for new mailing labels for the science kits. Kids really enjoy them! Two of the units are Animals Two by Two and Materials in Motion. Mrs. Nolte asked about field trip money as they would like to take a trip to Hancher Auditorium to see Circus to Oz. She was informed she could request up to \$1000. She would request the money to buy tickets as well as bussing. Kindergarten is also busy planning safety week. One question arose about class size. Mrs. Nolte reported class sizes of 18-20 students.

Welcome Mr. Ewald as Van Allen's Principal!

Mr. Ewald gave a brief review of his path to being a principal and a little bit about his family. Mr. Ewald is excited about having a team atmosphere and getting to know the great families that make up Van Allen. Mr. Ewald also laid out his values:

Attitude, Learning, Relationships and Communication

Wants people to think we are the BEST. We know we are, but we want everyone else to know too! We have the components of a GREAT school; GREAT staff, GREAT families and of course GREAT kids! Comment made that the kids really loves Mr. Ewald's new age thinking. All grade levels have been chattering about the birthday selfie Mr. Ewald does with birthday boys and girls!

Notes from DPO

Run for the Schools deadline is September 30th.

Ghurties is interested in doing fundraisers with us.

There was some discussion of school boundaries that will affect Van Allen. Van Allen will try to schedule a listening post in the future. Encourage parents to fill out Thought Exchange Survey. Some items covered on the Thought Exchange are Bussing, Boundaries, and Overcrowding.

High Schools are reporting not as many kids missing school and crediting later start times.

Meetings and By laws

PTO would like to change by laws to that of West High School so there is more flexibility in positions and meeting schedule. Susan M. motioned to change By Laws, Stef 2nded, motion passed.

Community Events

Ideas presented were: Talent Night at Coralville Performing Arts, Fairytale Night (geared towards lower grades) @ Library, Spirit Night, World Community Night, Science Night, Teacher Night (Meet the Teachers), Father/Daughter Dance, Mother/Son Dodge ball, Cupcake Wars. Noted Van Allen participates in U of I DanceMarathon, but this event is not sponsored by PTO.

Fun Fair Update

Lauren and Susan updated about Fun Fair. This is a HUGE event for Van Allen. They have changed some things around to make it more accessible for the younger grades. Will do class baskets again this year, list should come out in October. Parents can donate items or money. New this year, games will be run by a Sorority, allowing parents more time to spend with their children and the ability to participate in the Silent Auction. Also for Silent Auction committee hoping to get baskets donated to put items in. We will need to also get approval for small items such as prizes for games and items needed to put baskets together.

Clubs Choice

While it is known not to be the favorite fundraiser, it is the most profitable. We make a 40% profit. PTO will send a survey for input and other options for fundraiser, but please keep in mind where will we get the \$13,000 that we make from Club's Choice.

Donations have been coming in. Brian reported about \$970 in donates so far. Last year PTO received about \$1,900 total in donations for the entire year.

Spirit Wear

Online shop is up and running. Online Spirit Wear forms due September 26th for online submission and September 30th for paper forms.

Birthday Boulder and Rockets

Birthday Boulder is still a big hit! Please sign up through Sign Up Genius and make checks payable to Van Allen PTO. Rockets are also available for rent.

Next PTO Meeting set for Wednesday October 12th at 6:30pm. Childcare will be available.