

Minutes of September 15, 2015 Meeting of
Village Elementary School Parent School Association- PSA

PSA President, Vicky Flynn, called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Principal's Report

Mr. Schillachi welcomed back the parents and thanked everyone for their help in making a smooth transition back into the school year. He also welcomed special guests, Mrs. Liu from the BOE and Superintendent, Barbara Duncan. He also thanked Natalie Klobuchar and all of the parents who helped out with bus safety and transportation during the first few days of school.

He thanked the PSA board and parents for the Welcome Back Luncheon held on September 11th. It was a big success and everyone loved the food.

As to safety drills, Mr. Schillachi reassured that plans are in place to have continued presentation of the Police department and make sure that the entire district is safe. First drills would be conducted in the following weeks and the school will make announcements at the beginning of the year to prepare staff and students.

Mr. Schillachi thanked the PSA Executive Board for the initiative to provide Tablet carts for 1st graders.

Mr. Schillachi thanked the HFEE for the initiative to provide ChromeBooks for all 2nd and 3rd graders.

Staff news – Julie Rodriguez will be teaching Spanish to 1st and 2nd graders, Debra Rotherman will be heading Voyagers (Gifted & Talented) Program. Erin Donatry will be the technology coach for both Village and Indian Hill schools.

Jessica Martino, secretary in the main office, will be moving to Rome for the next 3 to 5 years due to her husband's job placement. Marie Wagner will be taking on the position.

Teacher Representative Reports

Kara Renfroe spoke on behalf of herself and Christine Barbara. She thanked PSA board and parents for the luncheon. The teachers made a thank you card as well. She noted that the PSA's donation of tablets also helped with kindergarten since they now received the iPads to use in classrooms. All the teachers and staff are excited and looking forward to a great year at Village.

Vice-Principal's Report from Mrs. Vierschilling

Mrs. Vierschilling welcomed everyone back and said school is off to a great start. She mentioned Back to School night for 2nd and 3rd grade to be held on 9/28 at 7pm.

She reviewed drop-off procedures for parents whose children do not ride the bus. Parents need to use the drop off circle located outside the entrance of the school. Parents should follow cars and stay in the circle. Parents should not pull around or pass another car. Dismissal for students not riding the bus will be held a few minutes before the buses in the new gym.

She discussed Character Education Initiatives and that they are just as important and academic initiatives. She explained that the school focuses on the "bucket-filling" philosophy, indicating that kind words and actions fill your bucket and unkind words and actions dip into the bucket.

Mrs. Vierschilling explained that the lunch room will be recognizing students for good behavior in the cafeteria. There will be a mystery watcher making sure the students are following rules and using manners. Students can win stickers and get prizes for good behavior. They will also get a 2nd chance the next day if they were not successful on the first day. She hopes this will drum up enthusiasm for the children.

There are plans to expedite the buses leaving the school this year. There will be additional signs for children to note where to go at the end of the day to make dismissal flow in a timelier manner. The 3rd grade students will assist with safety expectations on the bus and also helping students finding where to go.

She mentioned that bus contracts will be discussed with children during the assembly and needed to be signed and sent back to school.

Reports of the Executive Board

Vicky Flynn – President

Vicky thanked the Executive Board for its assistance during the summer to have September run so smoothly. She also thanked Natalie Klobuchar, Laura Lavell and Christine Bowden for helping kick off the school year.

She mentioned September 17th is the Pre-K and K Meet and Greet and volunteers are needed. The PSA calendar was updated on the district website. Emails will be sent out to all members on Sunday nights.

Vicky also noted that the budget was established and that the PSA will be mindful of the budget that was set so that we can raise as much as possible for the gifting initiative to benefit Village School students.

Vicky mentioned that the student directory is available to purchase through the link on the PSA website. Susan Gordon heads up the committee and encouraged parents to purchase directory and also talked about the new app that is also available to purchase.

Vicky informed parents that the PSA was able to save \$1,600 on its purchase of Chrome Books due to a promotion held in July by Barnes & Noble. The PSA was able to secure Professional Development by Barnes & Noble for the teachers with regard to the use of the tablets.

Vicky addressed that the PSA had issues related to previous years where the PSA failed to file any tax forms with the IRS (TY2012-2014). Vicky noted that the PSA had received a penalty but the errors were corrected by former PSA Treasurer Tammi Stanziale and the PSA is in good standing going forward. The PSA also pursued an appeal of the penalty. Vicky noted that the PSA budget this year includes the expense associated with having to pay the penalty in case the IRS denies the appeal (the penalty could be more than \$4,000).

Danielle Imprevduto-VP of Communications

Weekly E blasts go out on Sundays and should start up next week. There will be a bi-monthly newsletter being sent out for October/November. If anyone has information that they would like to be added to newsletter, email Danielle or Meagan Solomon Rodgers.

The Pre-K/K Meet and Greet is being held this Thursday. Little Rockers will be performing and snacks will be served.

Bingo night will be February 5th for Pre-K, K and 1st grade. Bingo for 2nd and 3rd grade is February 12th. Danielle noted that these events are PSA exclusive and encouraged parents to become a member.

Leslie Moratta-VP Membership

Leslie discussed the benefits of membership – if you become a member, you will receive certain members' only benefits, such as free yearbooks for each child in the family. If you are not a member, you will pay \$10 for each yearbook.

Trunk or Treat will be held on Halloween this year. Forms will be available online to register for the event.

Suzanne Serini-VP of Fundraising

Volunteers are needed for Trunk or Treat. Decorated "trunks" are needed. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trunks with the best themes.

Donations are needed for the Ladies Night Out event being held on October 22nd at The Shadowbrook. There will be dancing and basket raffles. This year's theme is LBD- Little Black Dress. Flyers will be sent home in children's' folders requesting donations, as well as empty baskets, wine, misc. fillers, etc.

The carnival will be held in the spring. Family skate night will be in February.

There will also be a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse and a Devils vs Rangers hockey night on February 2nd – details to follow.

Tonya Romano – VP Fundraising/PSA Historian

Volunteers are needed for various events. Please review the sign-up sheets being circulated around the room and sign up for any event that you are interested in helping out with.

Vicky introduced Tiffany Gourlay, Treasurer. Tiffany has already begun the process of reconciling the books so that tax forms for the prior school year (20 can be filed. Expense reports will be available for review on the PSA website.

Vicky introduced Christine Bavaro – Recording Secretary and Meagan Solomon Rodgers, Corresponding Secretary.

Meagan will be sending out “thank you” letters from PSA and handling all correspondence.

Reports of the Appointed Board

Laura Lavell

Fall Festival will be September 25th. Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up after the event. There will be a scarecrow contest and prizes will be awarded.

Laura also announced the upcoming assembly theme will feature “Story Pirates” who will share their experiences and stories from their travels all over the country.

Janice Petretti

Janice discussed the Box Tops program. Last year Village earned \$5,000 from Box top submissions. Each month, the class (per individual grade) collecting the most Box tops will earn the “Traveling Trophy” to be displayed in its class for that month. A pizza party will be awarded to the class with the most box tops at the end of the year. Collection sheets are available on the PSA website.

Natalie Klobuchar

Thank you to everyone who helped out with bus safety during the first week of school. There were 18 buses transporting children to and from school.

The Holiday Shoppe will be held from December 1st thru 4th. Setup will be on November 30th. Volunteers are needed for all dates. We will be using a new vendor this year featuring higher quality items ranging in price up to \$5.

Jamie Placca

Jamie spoke about need for donation of games, puzzles, books and toys. All of these items will be used when classes have indoor recess. A donation box is set up outside the Main Office.

Christine Bowden

Christine discussed the Go Green Committee and the need for volunteers for Waste Free Wednesdays, Assemblies and Earth Day, etc.

Michelle Sottile

HFEF raises money to give schools items that are not covered under the school budget. The Annual Campaign is currently underway and donations are greatly appreciated. Some events include Poker Night, Battle of the Faculties and this year there will be a Banquet at the Navesink Country Club in April.

The Mural including stars and planets is still being worked on and should be completed soon.

Tonya Romano

As PSA Historian, Tonya requests people to take photos of various events and to submit their photos to her. Photos need to be taken on a camera and not a cell phone.

Christine Schmitt (not present)

Red Ribbon Week will be week of October 19th. Initiative promotes a drug free message. Decorators are needed and should contact Christine.

Vanessa Granata

School store will be held monthly. First event is September 17th. Volunteer sign-up sheet is being distributed.

Laura Bachman

Spirit wear is available until October 1st. Purchases can be made online.

The Holmdel HS PTSO will be organizing Colorfest Run this year. The new VP of Fundraising for the HS would like to kick off homecoming weekend with The Ladies Night Out event on October 22nd, followed by Friday night football game, Colorfest on Saturday from 10-12 and finishing off with Homecoming on Sunday at the High School. The VP of fundraising also extended offer for Village to set up a table to share in the proceeds from the homecoming event.

Jean Berardi is the winner of the Membership Raffle.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded.