

Happy Valley Parent Club Meeting Minutes
8/16/21 6:30p-7:30pm
14 Participants

1. Welcome from Laura and Kirin

2. Update from Michelle Stewart

Her great nephew was just born-- Congratulations!

Michelle met with the board members of the B40 Fire Station and received confirmation that the fire station will remain open for at least one year. The administration will change soon but they will have one year to secure funding and make plans for future operations of the fire station

An update on the grounds: A lot has already been done, but they will continue to work on the field. Michelle just got word from the FD that it is ok to water the field. The lock to the sprinkler system had been jammed but is now ok.

Stay tuned for requests for parent helpers to volunteer for a work day on the grounds.

There is a new garden this year and it is looking great.

Question to Michelle: What will students do in bad weather during lunch and recess?

Answer: Students have been eating outside so far and it has been working well. If weather turns bad, they have some umbrellas that have not yet been put out. Students should be able to find covered outdoor lunch space unless it is really stormy. If it gets really bad, the students will go inside and the doors will be opened and social distance will be kept as much as possible. There is the possibility that they can split up classes (some students go to the library and some in the classroom) if necessary.

HVPC is not being asked to fund the garden at this time. There is a one time grant that will provide funding. HVPC may be asked to fund some supplies.

Art & Music programs are back with Ms. Conway. When students are singing full-out, they will be outside on the stage. When students are practicing, they will be singing in the classroom with masks on.

Steve Seffinger (Mr. S.) will be returning to work with students on coding and robotics units.

The library is coming back.

Back to School Night is 9/1. There will be 2 identical sessions that are shorter than previous years to reduce the amount of people in each classroom at one time. At this time, parents may choose which session to attend.

Michelle is bringing Friday Flag Days to HVS starting this Friday. All students will meet outside to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peacebuilders Assemblies will happen monthly and will include spirit days. HVS would like to be able to provide pizza to students on that day. HVS will ask for \$1 donation per student, but all kids will be eligible for pizza. HVPC will be asked to front the money for the pizza and a volunteer to go pick it up at Costco. HVPC will be reimbursed with donations received.

Question to Michelle: Should the request for a pizza volunteer and help in the garden be included as options to sign up for on the commitment sheet that will be going to all parents?

Answer: Yes, include pizza volunteer and maintenance (that would happen outside of school hours). We will not list the garden at this time since parent volunteers are not allowed on school campus during school hours due to current COVID19 circumstances.

3. Financials

Motion to approve \$5,000 for the library passed.

Motion to approve \$600 for garden supplies passed.

4. Parent Club Website

Kirin will be updating the website soon and needs some current information.

Question: Is Arts Alive possible for this school year?

Answer: Not at this time because no parents are allowed on campus during school hours. Also, Michelle would like to keep student cohorts separate while indoors for now. Arts Alive might be ok in the spring.

Heather Wilder provided an introduction to the Arts Alive programs for new parents. It usually happens on Fridays when students are released early. Program runs from 12:45-2:20pm and can be a range of things including sports,

gardening, cooking, puppetmaking, arts & crafts, costume-making, etc.

Heather explained that we are currently in need of an Arts Alive Program Coordinator. The role of the coordinator is two-fold. This person must hire the artists and manage the logistics of the class as well as handle the online registration and other administrative duties. Anyone interested????

Katelyn Lauzier has volunteered to be the Arts Alive Coordinator as well as the 1st Grade Room Parent. Thank you!!!

Question: Does HVPC support students who can not afford tuition for Arts Alive?

Answer: Yes. If students qualify for free-lunch program, they are eligible for %50 discount on tuition. HVPC does not have access to which families qualify for the discount. School administration maintains that information for privacy. HVS can also look at full scholarships on an individual basis. Michelle has a funding stream to help support this.

5. Room Parents

An email sign-up sheet is going home in Thursday folders to update the parent contact list.

Kindergarten and 1st grade have room parents.

Teachers are usually tasked with asking for a room parent at Back to School Night.

An option to volunteer for room parent has been included on the commitment sheet.

Question: For gmail users. it appears that HVPC emails may be going to a spam folder. Can Donna send an email to parents asking gmail users to add HVPC to their contact list?

Answer: Yes, Kirin will ask Donna to send email.

Question to Michelle: Because we cant do Redwoods Dinner, and idea is to turn the Open House in May into a fund-raising event? Heather said it's the event that gets closest to 100% participation from students and parents. One idea is to do an outdoor talent show, Families could bring picnic dinners to eat on the field or HVPC could sell Costco pizza for \$5 per slice. The class project could be sold. A silent auction could be held. One items might be 10 Disney tickets through the Points of Light program that could be divided up. Heather suggest

maybe 8 big items for the auction.

Answer: Michelle supports this idea. Michelle also suggest maybe an adult-only event where we do boxed catered dinners, like a mini-Redwoods Dinner. Michelle is concerned the auction might be too much to add to Open House. Michelles supports finding ways to come together as a community given the current COVID19 limitations.

Question: Where are we with the Endowment Fund? It pays for 3 Teachers Aides. Is HVPC still looking to reach the fund-raising goal of \$100,000?

Answer: Michelle is still waiting to hear and will have an answer at the next meeting.

6. Announcement from Dad'S Group:

Josh Martin (joromart@ucsc.edu), a long time HVS parent, and co-founder of the Dad's Group, has restarted the Dad's Group email list and they are looking for new parents to join (women welcome).

The Dad's group is putting together an outdoor event next Thursday (maybe a bonfire) that will also be streamed on Zoom to brainstorm projects for this year.

Josh discussed how important the friends he has made through the Dad's Group have become to him. He talked about how the Dad's Group not only helps the school, but supports one another in being a parent to school-age children.

Josh is open to doing maintenance projects on school grounds, as well as supporting any events that bring our little community together through food and live music in an outdoor setting. One year, they did a music festival and he BBQ'd down at the field.

Josh would like to see as many new Dad's as possible join the group this year as many of the existing members will be moving on from HVS next year. Andrew Meyers is the best contact if you are interested. Josh will provide his contact info to Laura.

Josh asked to be sent a list of projects, like refreshing the basketball back boards, and they will start planning.

Josh will work with Michelle or Paige to arrange a time to complete projects on the field (filling in gopher holes) and moving wood chips to behind the

art and music room.

Question to Heather: Any chance the poker tournemant could happen this year?

Answer: If kids can get vaccinated, maybe, if not, no.

A parent who is a Nurse Pracitioner and attends weekly health updates for Santa Cruz County said it is anticipated that kids 5-11 will be eligible for vaccinations in October.

Question: Is Ibu coming back to teach African Dance?

Answer: Michelle will look into it. Several people have started asking.