**Happy Valley Parent Club**

**September 17, 2015 Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Annette Olson

Everett Meisser Jr.

Jennifer White

Shaena Strubing

Carol Witter

Shawn Smolinski

Tiffany Willet

Carly Perlman

Sarah DeMeyer-Guyer

Maureen Vargas

Callie M. Bentzley

Michelle McKinney

Jennifer Kuechle

Alison Pepper

Susan Verducci

Heather Wilder

Athena Raney

6 PM Call to order

**1. Approve June Minutes.**

Jen White motion, Everett Second. All approved

**2. Life Lab Funding (Michelle, Shawn)**

Michelle explains that Shawn, with Western Growers grant, secured the garden from deer. There was money left in the Life Lab budget to start work on the garden. Shawn has done a great job, becoming a big asset to the school and garden.

Shawn: We have gotten the four beds planted and are beginning to wind it down for the season. Three front beds were planted out as well with Life Lab funds. He’s been in contact with Life Lab HQ at UCSC and has looked at the programs that are available. [Shows map of UCSC Life Lab garden as an example of projects/potential that we have.]

Shawn looking forward to revamping Life Lab. Common Vision crew planted four fruit trees, cleaned up irrigation, landscape cloth etc. He has a vision for the back area that will require some dismantling as he wants to make it more intensive and productive. On idea is to grow food for the school lunch.

Michelle: the program is dependent upon having a person that is the engine.

Jen: There’s a request by the school to fund the Life Lab more to facilitate the expansion of the program. Next meeting, this will come to a vote. If anyone has any connections to support the garden, please let Shawn and Michelle know.

**3. Principal's Report (Michelle)**

Michelle: Summer was busy. A lot was accomplished with LID and solar. Solar may save us $8,000 in electricity cost. Play areas were slurry sealed. Which was needed with upcoming rains. The play area is still blank. It’s going to be a class project to design for kids.

Our bathrooms are old…. Susan has taken on this as a project. 5th / 6th graders will survey, design, and make models for proposed designs.

Several architects were here over the summer. We are in the process of modernizing the school. Because of our low property assessment, we may be able to have the State pay for it all. At least two years out.

Common Vision came out and worked extensively. They worked on irrigation, protected trees, planted trees etc.

Our class sizes are large. More people continue to move into the Valley.

Drive for schools going on which is an important fundraiser for our classrooms.

It’s been a busy couple of weeks. Our CASPS scores came out. We did very well with the new testing. New era, lots of changes and work for teachers.

Michelle is part of a steering committee with funding from Gates Foundation to coordinate math for County. Have $150,000. as seed money. May get one million.

**4. Finance Update (Everett) [Handout]**

We have $127,000 in cash.

At the end of last year, we had 27k…we raised 95k and wrote the school a check for 72k. All the extra money goes towards funding Life Lab etc. ..putting money aside.

Endowment: Fundraising we give 10% (excluding donations) to the endowment fund and are the clearinghouse for donations to the fund. It’s run by the Board and has about $865,000. The school gets about 4% per years which pays for three of the aides.

**5. Commitment Sheets (Jen)**

Last year, we raised $35K, and this year have donations/pledges of $31.5K so far. Our goal is $50K. We are moving towards a donation model rather than fundraising. Some of that is corporate pledges where employers match employee donations.

**6. Kids Olympics / BBQ Update (Jen)**

Jen explains Kids Olympics…how it used to be and the new model which will be implemented this year.

Josh Martin is taking over and is going to step up the menu.

Kids Olympics and BBQ will be together.

Kids Raffle will be in the library.

Michelle points out the Spring Kids Olympics was near Redwoods Dinner and was too much.

Weekend date allows working parents to attend.

**7. Room Parents (Carol)**

We are in good shape for room parents with two parents for each room. Carol has a document on duties.

**8. Family Night Out Fundraisers (Carol)**

First fundraiser dinner is October 1 5-9 PM at Woodstock Pizza. If we purchase $700 of pizzas, we’ll get the highest percentage.

**9. Open Discussion**

Heather: Wants to incorporate Life Lab into Arts Alive. Interested in a culinary arts course.

7 PM Adjourn