

Viers Mill ES PTA
General Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2015

Members Present: Amber Tedesco (President); Christina Lange (Vice President); Lorena Moyer (Secretary); Carlson Stevens (Treasurer); Michael Powell (Principal); Barbara Hlavka (Staff Representative); Xavier Yeoman (Global); Carol Petrov; Lucy Silver; Johanna Johnson; Alicia Stern; Sara Moskowitz; Alice Stevens; Carrie Rhoads; Hugo Sarceño; Michael Lentz; Mary Gregory; Heather Copley; Esther Rodriguez; Olga Schans; Mike Kalandros; Billeta Lewis; Rick Ramirez; Amanda Anderko; Keith Anderko; Kim Montgomery-Recht

1. *Call to Order* at 6:32pm
2. *Secretary's Report* (Lorena Moyer):
 - a. Minutes from the September meeting approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. *Treasurer's Report* (Carlson Stevens):
 - a. The current bank account balance is approximately \$23,900.
 - b. The Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser brought in around \$720. The Believe Kids fundraiser was not as successful as we anticipated. We sold approximately \$4,800. A parent suggested a Papa John's fundraiser. People purchase a Papa John's pizza card for \$15 and each time it is used, they get one free pizza with the purchase of one. Esther Rodriguez will check into the fundraiser.
4. *President's Report* (Amber Tedesco):
 - a. Bell Times – Amber asked how parents felt about the new change in start time. There were mixed feelings. Some felt it is harder in the mornings, requiring extra time for parents to get to work. For others, there was no difference. One concern is the group of students standing around the back entrance between 8:30 – 8:40am. They are unsupervised during this and it presents a safety concern. We asked if Mr. Powell would observe this area in the mornings as well as send a notice to parents on acceptable drop off times.
 - b. Recess Equipment – There was a concern about a shortage of recess equipment for students to play with. Is there a shortage of equipment and how do we get more? Mr. Powell will work with Mr. Whittington to determine what additional equipment is needed. Mr. Powell reminded parents they can email him directly if there are concerns or questions rather than waiting to bring them up at the monthly PTA meetings.
 - c. Book Fair Entry After School – During school dismissal, parents were being instructed to check in at the front office prior to attending the book fair. Because of this, parents didn't attend the book fair. Mr. Powell stated if parents are picking up their kids, they do not have to check in prior to attending the book fair. He will inform the teachers of this change in procedures during the book fair only.
 - d. There were concerns regarding entry into the school for clubs such as Girl Scouts and dismissal of after school clubs. For entry into the school, the club coordinator should inform parents to meet at the front door at the designated time so they can enter at the same time. After school club sponsors must bring students to the front of the school and ensure a parent is there to pick up the child. Students may not be released without a parent. After school club sponsors should also provide a contact number to parents and not give out the school number.
 - e. There were concerns with the Kaizen Yoga class: too many students, concerns that they weren't truly doing yoga, early release from class, and others. Kaizen will be contacted regarding these issues. Please email Amber any issues with a club so we can take appropriate action. It was recommended there be a standard start time for after school clubs, 3:40pm.

5. *Principal's Report* (Michael Powell):

- a. Mr. Powell emphasized his priority that each student be college ready. Students need to learn critical and analytical thinking skills. We currently have a great structure to build on. We are teaching our students not what to think, but how to think. He informed us homework will be different. It will be driven by an essential question that the student will work on throughout the week. A few parents stated not all children will go on to college and that we also need to do more to ensure some of these students are career ready. Mr. Powell agreed. Due to time, Mr. Powell will present his data at the next PTA meeting.

6. *Old Business*

a. *Fall Fundraiser*

The Believe Kids fundraiser orders will arrive in mid-November. Amber requested assistance with delivering the orders to the teachers. Lucy Silver and Esther Rodriguez volunteered.

b. *Afterschool Activities- Optrix Class*

We experienced a couple of issues with the Thursday Optrix class the first two weeks. A new instructor will be here this week and two parents have volunteered to assist. We'll see how it goes. The Monday science class is running smoothly.

c. *School Directory*

Thank you very much to the parents who entered the forms into the directory spreadsheet. Amber will do a final review and send to Staples for printing. We received a lot of forms so we will need to order more than 100 directories this year.

7. *New Business*

a. *After School Club – Dance Class – Olga Schans*

Olga presented three dance class options for after school. The dance club will be held during the winter session (January-March).

- Unit Studio – Offers Hip Hop and Jazz, 8 week session, \$160/student, separate classes for K-2 and 3-5. Taught by MCPS high school students. No background checks and more costly
- ACD Dance Company – Offer two types of classes:
 - “Dance with Math” class – 12 week session, \$60/student, class emphasizes math with dance. This is an experimental class.
 - Private class – Offers Hip Hop and Jazz, one hour, 10-12 week session, they can do a performance at the end for parents. www.acddance.com
- Joy of Dance – Offers Ballet, Tap or Hip Hop (we choose one type or combo); 8-10 week session, \$130/student, separate classes for Pre-K – 2 and 3-5.

The consensus was to go with Joy of Dance. Olga will follow up with them regarding scholarships and offering separate days for Pre-K – 2 and 3-5. Please inform Christina Lange once the class is finalized.

b. *Creepy House*

Michael Lentz announced he needed a few more coordinators for activities. A crew is coming in Friday evening to bring out the maze panels and the SignUp Genius notice has been sent. If anyone is able to assist with the build next week, it would be appreciated. Dalit Baranoff is working on the picture photo board. The Creepy House schedule follows:

6:15pm – Door opens, food/beverage sales begin

6:40pm – Story time (English/Spanish), crafts, and photo boards in APR

7:10pm – Creepy House opens (K-2), Costume Contest (3-5)

Creepy House (3-5, Costume Contest (K-2)

We are splitting up the line for Creepy House and improving signage and traffic flow. No middle or high school students will be allowed unless they are with a younger child. Flyers will be sent in backpacks Thursday, the 17th.

c. *Global Parents Night Out*

Xavier Yeoman is working on the flyers that will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. The date selected is Friday, November 13th from 6:30pm – 9pm.

d. *Book Fair*

The book fair is going well. There is a good flow. Reminder that children must be accompanied by an adult before and after school. The book fair online store will be open through October 30th. Amber will send the link to the list serv. We are collecting donations for “A Book for a Child”. The donations will be used during the spring book fair.

e. *Spirit Wear*

Lorena Moyer announced the spirit wear sales will run from November 3-18. The online store will remain open until November 23rd. There is a 10% service fee for online purchases. Sample t-shirts and sweatshirt were passed around and Lorena went through the cost for the items.

f. *Staff Appreciation*

Lucy stated we are on schedule for the staff appreciation potluck breakfast on Friday, October 23rd. She will need to leave by 9am. If anyone can assist with clean up, she would greatly appreciate it.

g. *Membership Update*

To date, we have 118 PTA members, 102 parents and 16 faculty. Membership cards have been sent out. It was suggested to have a membership table at our PTA events.

h. *Instrumental Music*

There is a shortage of instruments for students to borrow. There were 40 requests for the violin and only 18 available. Mr. Schultz has informed parents to rent them for the school year. Rentals run \$100/school year. It was suggested the PTA offer four \$25 scholarships for this purpose. We will need to build this into next year’s budget. Ms. Hlavka will speak with Mr. Schultz regarding his needs.

i. *Spring Soccer Club*

Sara Moskowitz proposed beginning the soccer program earlier next spring, around the middle of March. They will offer 2 days (K-2 one day, 3-5 another day).

j. *Breakfast & After School Concerns*

There were concerns with the types of unnutritious food being offered for breakfast. Sara Moskowitz proposed a pilot program through Whole Foods to bring in healthier foods. Esther Rodriguez offered to assist. Sara will schedule a meeting with Mr. Powell to discuss her plans. There were also concerns with the size of after school snacks/meals being served. After school clubs may offer snacks, however students are being given full meals after school, then eating another full meal when they get home. It seems to be too much.

k. Mr. Whittington will hold a food drive next week. Flyers should have gone home today.

8. *Announcements & Upcoming Events*

- a. 10/19-23 – Book Fair
- b. 10/30 – Creepy House
- c. 11/3-18 – Spirit Wear sales
- d. 11/13 – Global’s Parents Night Out
- e. 11/18 – PTA Meeting

9. *Adjournment* at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorena Moyer