

Velma Hamilton Middle School PTO Meeting November 1, 2017

Present: 6 board members, Principal Taylor, and 2 parents.

Grants discussion (whole group):

French/Spanish magazines. It is an online subscription, and we would lose the license (and access to the magazines) when the subscription ends. It would be used by multiple classes. It's like Scholastic News, but in Spanish or French. Comes with video/audio along with transcripts. VOTE: Sherry moves to approve the grant, Kirstin seconds, grant passes unanimously - looks like there's a sale, so we'll suggest the teacher try to get that lower price.

Stapler. Jessica can discuss with Peg Keeler (Principal of Van Hise) to see if VHE will split the cost; on the other hand, it's not much money. VOTE: Sherry moves to approve the grant, Kirstin seconds; approved unanimously.

Tables, vacuum cleaners, battery operated backpack vacuum, additional custodial cart.

Vacuums: It was suggested that we hold off on purchasing the more expensive one; question of whether the PTO is the appropriate body to buy it, given that it's a basic tool of the job - shouldn't the district pay for it? Jessica will look into what the funding is and whether it should be part of her formula budget.

Mike suggests holding off on all custodial requests until budgetary responsibility and PTO revenues (i.e., the final numbers on the direct appeal) are determined.

Fundraising (Shelby Connell & Sherry Nields): We have raised \$1,440 so far from the direct appeal; REAP, \$650 so far, but more orders should filter in over the next few days. Sherry asks if it would make sense for teachers to personally send emails about the direct appeal - lots of people don't open PTO emails, but most open emails from teachers. Shelby suggests a sheet with information about the direct appeal be available at conferences. The sheet could include all the fundraisers coming up.

The Roman Candle benefit night is next week, followed by Barnes and Noble.

Treasurer's report (Mike McLain): There are some technical changes in the budget that will need to be voted on. Bucky books: the school has to write a check, then get money back from them. Same for REAP. Mike also consolidated all office supplies into one line item. VOTE: Shelby moves to approve the technical changes, Sherry seconds. Passes unanimously.

VOTE: Sherry moves to accept the treasurer's report, Kirstin seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Volunteer update: The report was provided via email and on the agenda. It is copied here: The staff appreciation meal will take place November 15, 3:00-6:00 pm. We have sent out the sign up genius for folks to use to sign up to help set up; bring a dish; clean up; or make a card for staff. We will keep the PTO updated of any gaps we need filled as the date draws nearer. Please let Melissa or Hannah know if you have any questions.

Hamilton Directory (Jeff DeThorne): Jeff produced the Hamilton directory in print. He wonders if it could be done electronically. Shelby says there are some district parameters regarding privacy and security. She asks if he means that the directory would be sent as a PDF, or posted on a web site. If it's a web site, it needs password protection; some people don't open their emails. Sherry suggests allowing people to opt for paper; Jeff says if one person wants paper, we might as well give everyone paper; Shelby says we would have to send out PDF in multiple ways. Kirstin points out that if it's sent out electronically, someone could scrape the information and then they have the list of everyone at the school to use for marketing or any other purpose (privacy as an issue). Jessica will talk to whoever's in charge of communications at the district to see what might be feasible.