

Valley Ridge Academy PTO Minutes for 4th General Meeting –April 28, 2016

Minutes Prepared by Felicia Farrell

1. The meeting was called to order by Jen Murphy at 7:05 PM.
2. The minutes from the Third PTO Meeting, February 18, 2016 were distributed, reviewed, and approved by the members.
3. The co-chair of the Teacher & Staff Appreciation Committee, Amy Zobel, provided a recap of Appreciation week, which culminated earlier today. The theme was The Valley Ridge Academy Awards. Approximately 160 faculty and staff were welcomed with a red carpet arrival, provided with meals throughout the week, an ice cream social and multiple gifts. The committee gathered 160 items from businesses in the community and conducted a raffle in which everyone received a present. Parents generously donated food and supplies and over \$2200 in cash and gift cards. We gave the staff a commercial-grade Keurig for the mailroom, along with coffee pods and supplies. Kim Piety was responsible for many of the elaborate decorations and Olivia and Cameron Slayden designed the movie posters with teachers' faces on them. Jaclyn Collins is appreciated for wrapping almost 160 gifts.
4. Volunteer Coordinator Update - Melinda Waters shared a report on tutoring, saying that she is meeting with teachers regarding lessons learned this year and obtaining an understanding on what is needed for tutoring going forward.
5. There will be a volunteer appreciation breakfast to thank all who have volunteered their time this year at VRA on May 19, 2016 before Mr. King's last Communication Cornerstone.
6. Jen Murphy thanked all volunteers including those who have donated their time to proctoring.
7. Treasury Report - Stephanie Devincentis presented the year-to-date Treasury Report, which was reviewed.
8. Proposed 2016-2017 budget - Stephanie Devincentis handed out the proposed budget for next year, and explained that in general, new projected expenses were calculated to mirror the 10% population growth expectation that the county recently calculated for VRA.
9. The question was posed as to why PTO had not projected a 10% increase in the income category. Jen Murphy explained that while adding 10% more students will definitely increase expenses, it does not necessarily mean that the new board will be able to increase *income* by 10%, thus the current board did not want to set unrealistic expectations on the incoming board.
10. Amy Zobel, Parliamentarian, explained that this proposed budget is a starting point and completely up for discussion, debate and modification, as the budget belongs to the members to decide upon.
11. Jen Murphy also pointed out that the budget will vary each year as the population increases and perhaps decreases again when the new school is finished.
12. The floor was open for discussion of the proposed budget and the following items were considered:
 - a. A question was raised as to why the budget for Scholastic Newsletter appears to be high. There was a misunderstanding as to what this is, as the questioner thought it was referring to the Scholastic sales flyers that are sent home. It was explained that this is an educational resource for the classrooms that PTO provides to VRA.

- b. A member asked why there are two separate items related to staff/teacher appreciation. Stephanie DeVincentis explained that there is: (i) one for staff events that take place throughout the school year (such as the back-to-school teacher breakfast, ice cream social, and holiday events); (ii) and one for the actual Staff Appreciation Week.
 - c. A member noted a typographical error in the Appreciation Week proposed figure. This year's co-chair of the Staff Appreciation Committee, Amy Zobel, opined that the budget for Appreciation week needs to be increased in a manner corresponding to the 10% predicted growth in accordance with the other budgetary items, as growth in student population will also result in more staff. A motion was made that the Appreciation Week budget be increased to \$4K. The motion was seconded and the proposed motion was approved by unanimous vote by the PTO membership by voting card.
 - d. A discussion about ArtSmart took place and Laurie Shreve explained the Art Smart program and reinforces art and testing concepts. If there was 100% participation ArtSmart would cost \$3500 at \$0.41 per student.
 - e. Jen Murphy proposed the budget for ArtSmart to be increased to \$4k. The motion was seconded and the proposed motion for the income and expense for ArtSmart to be changed to \$4k was approved by unanimous vote by the PTO membership by voting card.
 - f. There was a question about whether the Garden Groupies is still an active program needing budgetary resources. After discussion, a motion was made to remove Garden Groupies from the 2016-2017 budget. This motion was seconded and the Garden Groupies was removed from the budget by unanimous vote of the PTO membership by voting cards.
13. After all discussion was had regarding the proposed budget, and the aforementioned changes were made, the PTO Members voted by a show of voting cards to approve the 2016-17 budget.
14. Melissa Czuabit provided a report on 2016-2017 Board Nomination Committee. She encouraged people to run for the VP of Committees position, explaining that it is a very important role. The Secretary and the Parliamentarian also spoke to the Members encouraging someone to run for those vacant positions.
15. To date, the following nominees for the 2016-2017 PTO Board Positions are:

President: Molly Molis

VP of PreK – 2nd – Angela Ray

VP of 3rd – 5 – David Scotti

VP 5-8th - Kim Piety

Nominating a Co-Position – VP of membership - Lauren Kersting and Tory Eunefield

VP of Committees – Vacant

VP of Business Partners – Ann Denise Rubino

VP of Fundraising – Heather Little

Treasurer – Maria Solomon

Parliamentarian – Vacant

Secretary - Vacant

Volunteer Coordinator – Mindy Waters

16. Each candidate who was present gave an introduction speech. A vote by voting card was held immediately following the speeches.
Angela Ray was voted in as The VP of PreK – 2nd Grade,
David Scottie was voted in VP of 3rd – 5th,
Kim Piety was voted in as VP of 5-8,
Lauren Kirsten and Tory Eunefield were voted in as VPs of Membership,
Ann Denise Rubino was voted in as VP of Business Partners,
Heather Little was voted in as VP of Fundraising,
Maria Solomon was voted in as Treasurer, and
Mindy Waters was voted in as Volunteer Coordinator.
17. Molly Molis was not able to be present at the meeting. The vote for president was postponed, as Members expressed a desire to meet her and to hear from her before voting on her candidacy for President.
18. Due to the existence of vacancies, a Special General Meeting will take place in the near future in order to vote on the vacant PTO Board positions for 2016-2017.
19. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.