

MINUTES OF PFA MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012

Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 3:29 pm.
- Secretary Jennifer Cannell was not present at the meeting; Heather Cook agreed to take notes for the minutes.
- Pat Plowden moved to approve the November meeting minutes; Madeleine Palmer seconded the motion.

Fundraising

- El Pollo Loco fundraiser dinner raised \$252.68; we will look into doing another El Pollo Loco fundraiser dinner in April.
- Mrs. Johnson asked about doing a wine tasting fundraiser. Westergard E.S. does a wine tasting fundraiser at Grape & Grain in Somerset; \$15 a ticket. Mrs. Geil agreed we should look into doing this during next school year.
- Jerky Hut Fundraiser raised \$27.30.
- Mrs. Geil announced that on Christmas Eve, Verdi Mining Company Saloon and Pizzeria held a donation fundraiser for Verdi E.S. It raised \$400 for our school. Mrs. Geil believes Julie deposited that money into the general school account.
- Box Tops for Education - For the October 31st submission deadline, we earned \$422.06. Next submission deadline is March 1. Mrs. Geil has the WCSD Bond Dept., Payroll and Staff Development Depts. saving Box Tops from their paper products for Verdi E.S.
- Labels for Education; Model Dairy UPC Code Panels
- PJ and Co. Restaurant Fundraiser Night – May 22nd. This needs to be confirmed through Mrs. Erickson.
- Yogurt Beach Fundraiser Night either June 4 or 5 (first choice is June 5). Christie Gellman will contact Yogurt Beach to set this up.

Principal's Report

- New carpet and linoleum has been installed in the office. Office looks great with that and new furniture.
- A letter will go out this week asking for interest in full day kindergarten. We need 40 students (we currently have 22). Fee is \$65 per week for all day kindergarten. Kellie Paul asked if we can send letters to preschools such as Goddard to see if there is any interest with those families. Mrs. Geil didn't see why not and said if there is a school who would like a letter to circulate we can forward one on.
- Chinese Program - Mrs. Geil explained that McQueen H.S. is a global studies magnet for the school district's Chinese program (not the same as the Spanish Immersion Program). This program will be instituted at Billingham M.S. beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. As Verdi E.S. and Melton E.S. are feeder schools for McQueen, each is being looked at to be given the program. Both schools are vying for the program. Verdi has the classroom (and Gloria knows the ESL Coordinator, Mary Ann Robinson.) Melton has 75 Chinese students. If Verdi is awarded the program, it would allow us to increase our

student numbers by accepting variances. Verdi would get 1 full-time teacher (Mrs. Geil has only one teacher in mind – Lee Lim). She has spoken with him about getting this program at Verdi and he is interested.) The teacher would not only teach the program but could be used elsewhere in the school as well. Studies show it takes seven years to learn a language. All 1st through 6th grades would be taught Mandarin Chinese 40 minutes 3 days a week, or 30 minutes 4 days a week. This class would be included in the master schedule that includes library, band, music and computers in which each grade rotates through on a weekly basis. Mrs. Geil has spoken with the teachers who had a number of questions. PFA members asked questions about transportation of students on variances and Mrs. Geil said she has asked that question and been told if parents can get their students to a Verdi bus stop they could probably take the bus to school. Another question was would this program cut into the students' current instruction. Mrs. Geil said the school district will be instituting a new bus schedule next school year in which all schools will be required to add 30 minutes of instruction to their day. Verdi would use that additional 30 minutes for the Chinese program. Another question was why Mandarin Chinese, and Mrs. Geil said it's because Chinese has become the language of business. Another question was about funding for this program and Mrs. Geil said the ESL department will provide the teacher and necessary materials. Once the program is up and running, we would likely be assigned a sister school in Shanghai and the schools would communicate with one another and the students would have pen pals. Mrs. Geil also said there may also be a possibility that in a few years a trip may be put together for students and parents to travel to China. Mrs. Geil concluded that a letter will be sent out towards the end of January to all Verdi families to see if there is any interest in this program. She also said that we could have an informational meeting for parents could attend to learn more information and ask questions.

Treasurer's Report

- Accounting through December 31, 2011 - Expenses to date are \$11,952.01. Cash in the bank is \$27,454.09.
- Holiday Shop brought in \$1,818.06; \$1,651.69 was spent to buy items to sell.
- Formal budget request received for \$360 to pay half the admission fee for the students to attend the Children's Museum. First, 4th, 5th and 6th grades are attending Friday, January 13th. Second and 3rd grades are going in May. Laurie Hayes didn't want to write a check for \$360 not knowing if all students would participate in the field trip. Mrs. Geil said she or Julie would let us know the exact amount needed and we could either write a check to the Children's Museum or reimburse the school account.

Events & Committee Information

- Bingo Night – Tuesday, January 24th – Chairperson Laurie Hayes informed the PFA that she may be over the amount budgeted for this event by a few dollars. She needed to replace the bingo balls as a few were missing. She also purchased 300 card books, each book containing 24 cards (3 cards each for 8

games) for \$54. Doors open at 6:30, first game starts at 7:00. Madeleine Palmer will modify flyer with game start time. Flyer to be sent home this week to all students. Pre-ordered cards will be available for pick up at the door at Bingo Night. Refreshments (popcorn, cookies, lemonade and water) will be sold. Mrs. Geil will check with Joan to see if we can use the Kitchen window. Mrs. Geil will get some of the staff to be the callers. Kellie Paul will pick up the game prizes.

- Reading Week – February 6 – 10th. A friend of Mrs. Clark who is an illustrator will be here to visit with the students. \$250 in budget to provide a pizza lunch to the students on Friday the 10th. Heather Cook will call Godfathers or Verdi Mining Company about ordering pizza.
- Writing Night – Tuesday, February 28th (Mrs. Geil is handling)
- Science Fair - Tuesday, March 6th. Mrs. Plowden stated that Mrs. Erickson is handling the Science Fair. Mrs. Geil will check with her about the entry fee deadline for the Science Fair at UNR.
- Evening of the Arts & Dessert Auction – Tuesday, March 27th – classes will display their art projects created during VSA Art Class. Mrs. Geil is teaching the 1st and 2nd grades a dance.
- Fun Run – Friday, May 18th - Chairperson Jennifer Cannell was not in attendance. Heather Cook asked about what vendor we will use for the t-shirts. Kellie Paul said she was pleased with Fuel Promotions who did our Spirit Wear this year. It was agreed to contact Fuel Promotions about doing the fun run t-shirts. Wendy McPhail volunteered to help with on the Fun Run committee. Christie Gellman will provide her name to Jennifer Cannell.
- Pumpkin Patch 2012 - Mrs. Geil confirmed that Education Alliance has scheduled its Run for Education on Sunday, October 21, 2012. There was concern that those in attendance at the meeting were the majority of the families who participated in the Run in 2010. Mrs. Geil said we earned \$1,700 for participating in the 2010 Run for Education and would hate to lose that money next school year. Discussion was held about changing the date to October 7th and the difficulty in preparing for the event being so close to the beginning of the school year. Christie Gellman had some ideas about how to assist Julie and Joniece in the preparation. At the end of the discussion it was agreed to move the date to October 7, 2012. *[On January 11, 2012, Kellie Paul was contacted by Kari Zbella the McQueen Craft Faire Liaison and was told due to a scheduling conflict, McQueen's 2012 Craft Faire is rescheduled to October 19-21. Kellie discussed this calendar change with Christie Gellman, Heather Cook, Julie Boge and Mrs. Geil and all were in agreement to move Verdi's Pumpkin Patch to Sunday, October 14, 2012. Kellie provided this new date to Kari Zbella of McQueen and Kari included our Pumpkin Patch date in an email she sent to all McQueen crafters. She also put our date on McQueen's Facebook.]*

New/Continued Business

- VSA Arts Program – Mrs. Geil provided information that to continue the VSA Arts Program through the end of the year (Feb, Mar, Apr & May) the cost would be \$280 for each class to have art one time per month and \$560 for each class to have art two times per month. The PFA would like to see students get art two

times a month and Mrs. Geil was asked if this would need to be cleared with the teachers before making a decision. Mrs. Geil didn't think so, therefore, Christie Gellman moved that the PFA pay \$560 for the students to have art two times a month for the remainder of the school year. Heather Cook seconded the motion. Also discussed was looking into getting the VSA art program for the entire 2012-2013 school year. The PFA will add this fee into next school year's budget. A few parents asked about having an after-school art class that families would pay for. This will also be looked into for next school year.

- Physical Education Instruction – Mrs. Geil was asked about students getting physical education instruction and if anything is taking the place of last year's tennis lessons now that the tennis courts are unusable. She said the teachers do P.E. usually on Friday afternoons. A question was raised about getting a P.E. instructor to come in once a week. Wendy McPhail said she knows of two parents who would be willing to help with P.E.
- Yearbook Committee – Wendy McPhail volunteered to help with the yearbook. She will talk with Julie. Kellie Paul said that Ross Bevans (who provided us with the nacho cheese machine for the pumpkin patch) has a printing business and indicated he would print our yearbook for us. Price is unknown at this time.
- Madeleine Palmer asked about the status of the school directory and if we will have one for next school year. Mrs. Geil will check with Julie on the status of this year's directory.
- Heather Cook announced that Mimi's Restaurant is no longer accepting student achievement gift certificates being handed out to students for turning in Box Tops. Heather suggested Kellie Paul contact the other restaurants to see if their gift certificates are still being honored.
- Laurie Hayes asked about the status of playground equipment. Mrs. Geil said she sent an email to Kaboom and hasn't heard back. She wants to write another grant to the E.L. Cord Foundation but is not sure if they will give money for playground equipment.
- Mrs. Geil was asked about changes to the bell schedule. She said WCSD will not be changing the school calendar for 2012-2013 school year. It is forecast to change for 2013-2014. The bell schedule being proposed for elementary schools is 8:15 to 2:45. This goes before the board of trustees most likely in February. Mrs. Geil also mentioned it is likely that registration for next school year will take place online through Infinite Campus.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012 @ 3:30 PM

Submitted by,

Christie Gellman
PFA President