

**PENDING APPROVAL AT THE NEXT PTO MEETING, FEBRUARY 24, 2009**  
**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL/VALLEY SOUTHWOODS PTO MINUTES**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Welcome/Introductions- Karen Floss & Cathy Guendel**

The meeting was called to order by Co-President, Karen Floss at 7:00 p.m. in the Valley Southwoods cafeteria. Introductions were made around the room.

**Attendance:**

Karen Floss, Cathy Guendel, Joe Burvee, Lynn Hagen, Janet Thompson, Mary Ellerbrock, Juhree Wendl, Denise Rairdin, Traci Hellman, Karla Simon, Tegwyn Smith, Mel Pomerantz, Bronna Metzger, Fran Ronnau, Karen Maigaerd, Janene Pollack, Sherry Thompkins, Mr. Kent Abrahamson, and Dr. Vicky Poole.

**Guest Speaker-** Detective Bryan Grube- Resource Officer at VHS

Detective Grube made a presentation on his duties and responsibilities as a school resource officer. He is assigned to the Criminal Investigative Unit of the West Des Moines Police to investigate and review incidents which involve juveniles within the West Des Moines Community Schools. Detective Grube answered many questions dealing with topics such as; underage drinking, substance abuse, gang violence, Social Host Law, theft from lockers/ how to avoid theft, retailer compliance, formal prevention programs, curfew, criminal incidents which are reported to principals and helping parents with referrals. Detective Grube is engaged with students during the lunch period in the cafeteria and hallways. Detective Grube has an open door policy and may be reached at his direct line at the WDM Police at 222-3316, or VHS at 633-4343. His email is [bryan.grube@wdm-ia.com](mailto:bryan.grube@wdm-ia.com)

**Principal's Report-** Mr. Abrahamson and Dr. Poole

VSW:

- . Unofficial enrollment on first day of school- 701 students
- . Mr. Abrahamson spoke about the dress code and the steps taken if a student needed a change of clothing. There are very few referrals for this violation he reports.
- . Explained that only 10 tickets were sold to the fall dance and the decision to cancel the dance.
- . Staff is looking at other school sponsored activities to gather students for positive interactions such as Guitar Hero contests, Battle of the Bands, etc.
- . Homecoming events will mirror what VHS will be conducting except they will be tie dying bandanas during Spirit Week, instead of shirts.

.VSW will attend the fall assembly held at VHS.

Valley updates:

. Dr. Poole discussed the Culinary Arts program which is aligned with DMACC for credit. Meals will be cooked by upcoming chefs for \$8.00/meal. New chef coats, and furniture have been purchased for the program. Please call or go online to make reservations.

. Homecoming Spirit week events were discussed;

Tie Dye shirts, Softball/Baseball games followed by the Silent Auction, Powder-puff game, parade, BBQ at the stadium, coronation at Friday's football game, and the dance at Hy-Vee hall are just some of the events planned by the Student Council to build positive school pride and involve the elementary schools and community to attend these events.

. Dr. Poole and Mr. Abrahamson discussed the policies at the dance; school ID required, tickets at door, or purchased at school, no hats/canes allowed at the dance, breathalyzer at the door.

#### **Secretary's Report/Minutes Approval-** Sherry Thompkins

Minutes from the April 17, 2008 meeting were read and approved. PTO minutes and agendas can now be viewed on the Valley and Valley Southwoods web sites, under the heading, Parent Group.

#### **Treasurer's Report-** Joe Burvee

Joe distributed a financial statement of receipts and disbursements for the 2008-09 school year. Also included was the past four years of data of the disbursements to compare/contrast spending. Joe discussed the spreadsheet and explained that the books were closed and audited August 14, 2008.

Joe presented the 2008-09 budget and asked for comments before the proposed budget was approved. Joe congratulated the Registration chairs because membership is at an all time high. He attributed this to the fact that the registration form was included in both the VHS/VSW registration packet which is mailed during the summer months.

A new budget item for After Prom was added. The donation of \$100.00 is noted on the budget. A General Scholarship Fund for \$500.00 is noted on the budget as well. The scholarship fund will help students with needs. Dr. Poole will approve the scholarship needs.

A parent asked what each school did with the extra money donated from PTO at the end of the year. VSW reported the money will help with field trips and team building exercises.

VHS reported that the money will be collected for a multi-media studio.

Joe recommended that the 2008-09 PTO group think about a special project that they would like to complete with the PTO funds. The 2007-08 group was able to purchase a new AED with

donations from PTO. Both administrators will poll the teachers to determine the best use of these anticipated funds, and submit these suggestions to the Board for final approval before disbursement is made next May, 2009.

**Committee Reports:**

**VHS Registration-** Tegwyn Smith reported 90% of students were registered during the August registration. Many compliments were received because of the smooth flow of the registration process. Pre-registration is the preferred method due to the long line to pay in the office. Registration utilized 114 volunteers. Patti Splavec used a spreadsheet for efficiency during this process. Email reminders were used to remind volunteer of the date/time they were scheduled to work. 2009-2010 Registration coordinator will be Nancy Helland. Notebooks with written/visual notes will be passed on to the next year's coordinator.

**VHS Volunteer Coordinator-** Volunteers are replying quickly via email as need arises. VHS has 11 committee areas for volunteers. If there are any changes in email please contact Janet Thompson as soon as possible.

**VSW Volunteer Coordinator-** Dee Large explained that there are 36 options for volunteers at VSW. She listed some of the needs taken care of with volunteers since the beginning of the school year; field trip, Community Service, and Homecoming project.

**Membership-** Patti Splavec submitted report: Due to the membership form included in the VSW registration packet, the increase of memberships grew to 541 members. The freshman parents had the highest membership rate with 36%; sophomore parents- 24%; junior parents- 22% and senior parents with 18% membership.

**VSW Hospitality-** Traci Hellman reported that the first conference dinner is planned. Most items are being donated by parents. Paperware and utensils will be purchased with monies budgeted by PTO.

**VHS Hospitality-** Karen Maiggard reported that she has a large number of volunteers. She will email volunteers to bring side dishes, water and desserts. The main dish will be catered.

**Community Ed Advisory-** Fran Ronnau reported that the first Monday of each month will be the Community Ed Advisory meeting. This is a state mandated organization and is made up of the WDM Police, Chamber of Commerce, and local schools. This group has 44 members with 14 new members and 30 returning members. This group coordinates projects between the school and community.

**School Community Network-** Juhree Wendell representative from VSW, and Janet Thompson representative from VHS attend the SCN meeting the third Tuesday of each month from 9:15-11:00 a.m. at the Learning Resource Center. Representatives from all schools, Dr. Narak, school board members, and principals from every building are present. Any questions to be addressed to the above will be directed at this forum. Juhree discussed that this a good way to get questions to a different venue answered.

**Tech Support-** Sue Sorge gathered all the names from the volunteer recruitment form and created a document to turn over to the VHS/VSW Volunteer Coordinators. This document includes names, email addresses, and volunteer options. This is a huge task and we thank Sue for all of her work gathering, sorting and creating this document.

**After Prom-** Bronya Metzger reported that the After Prom committee is in place. The After Prom has a website and is currently meeting to discuss a theme, decorations, and parent/corporation donations. A starting fund of \$3,891.44 is in place for the After Prom. Committee members are looking for new ideas for larger groups of students to participate in. After Prom will be May 9, 2009 at the Jordan Creek Mall from 11:30 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Bronya reported that \$25,000.00 needs to be raised for this alcohol/drug free event. All junior and seniors are invited. A student does not need to attend Prom to attend After Prom.

**Athletic Boosters-** Tegwyn Smith reported that the Booster Club is encouraging all parents to join the Booster Club. She reported that the Tiger Zone school store will be open on Friday's during the lunch hour. Concessions are going well with the supervision of Mike Linn.

**Band Boosters-** No report submitted.

**Valley Voices-** No report submitted.

**New Business-** Cathy Guendel reported that PTO hosted an on line safety presentation at VHS in the media center. Valuable information was given to parents on the on line safety for teen communication. Presenters said teens really prefer face to face communication. Positive things may occur on line, but families must keep communication open in the home and teens must feel free to alert guardians of any concerns.

**Open Forum-** None.

**Adjourn-** The meeting was adjourned by Karen Floss at 9:20 p.m. the next meeting will be held at VHS forum on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.