

MVSA Meeting Minutes 14 January 2014

In attendance: Shirin Aidun (teacher rep), Susheel Aroskar (parent), Michele Berke (co-VP), Trish Cowan (teacher), Wolf Cramer (President), David Lee (co-VP), Stephen Lotz (teacher rep), Chris Nagata (Tech/Lab), Genevieve Randolph (Principal).

Guests: Nishir Shelat (Eagle Scout), Jessica Cruz (Safe Routes to Schools)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. The President welcomed everyone and everyone was introduced.

President's Update:

- Prior to winter break, all the classroom celebrations (pizza parties) were held in recognition of the classes that had a high rate of donations to the Busy Beaver drive.
- Fundraising for the Science camp has been completed. Students left this morning
- Looking ahead:
 - This Friday (January 17th), we will host the next Family Movie Night. We will be showing Despicable Me, 2. We will also use this time to recognize our volunteers.
 - As of now, we don't have a plan for February. Perhaps another game night.

December Minutes: Ms. Randolph indicated that there were a few corrections to be made under Principal's update:

- Mission Valley (not FUSD) will hold a Family Information Night on CC. The date is February 20, 2014.
- The Field test window for the new Smarter Balanced Assessments will be April 7-May 16 (not May 16-June 7) but specific dates have not been determined.
- Similarly, the STAR Science test window for Grade 5 are April 7-May 16. Specific dates have not been decided.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected (Lotz/Aidun). Carried.

Eagle Scout Update (Nishir Shelat):

Last October, the MVSA approved to financially support Nishir's Eagle Scout project to plant native species in some of the dirt beds behind the classrooms. His project was then approved by the Boy Scout Council. Unfortunately, Nishir became ill and couldn't work on the project for several weeks. He has since looked for and priced out materials and hopes to begin at the end of January or early February. He has sufficient volunteers. Discussion points:

- Please take before, during and after pictures.

- Because we are currently experiencing draught-like conditions, Nishir will hand-water for the first month. After that, it's expected that the native plants will be established and hardy enough to survive in the clay soil. Also, there's some moisture from the vents outside the classroom.

Principal's Update (Randolph):

- Ms. Randolph responded to a question from last month about how MVSA can assist with purchasing accessories for the mobile labs. At this time, FUSD will be providing laptops, mice, and headphones. However, she will let us know if there are other purchases that will be needed.
- The Geography Bee was held last Friday for Grades 4-6. A 4th grade student won and will now take a written test to qualify for the state Geo Bee. Fees will be paid by the school and travel is covered by the family.
- FAME will be held on 24 January and everyone is looking forward to this event.
- First basketball games were on Monday against CSD. The girls lost but the boys won. The next games will be on January 23rd against MSJE at 3:30.
- Reminder that there is no school on January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King.
- There will be a school-wide anti-bullying assembly on January 30th that will be conducted by an outside group.
- The Spelling Bee finalists will be representing MV on January 30th.

Teacher's Update (Aidun/Lotz):

- Young Author's contest ended today. Decisions need to be made by January 17th. Up to 10 books per school can be submitted. Keep in mind that this year, there's no Science Fair project. These 2 contests alternate years.
- Two teachers who did not initially request document cameras and projectors are now interested in having them. One teacher had one of her own and is now in need of a new one. The other teacher did not think that she would make use of it however, now feels that with Common Core, the doc camera will be of benefit. Previously, these were purchased as a "one time" expense (not out of the tech committee's budget) and teachers were told that if they didn't order them, they could order it in the future. There's some concern about the quality of the ones purchased as well as the lack of support from the original vendor. Ms. Nagata will communicate with the tech committee members and ask for one of them to take on researching the purchase. It was agreed that in addition to the 2 requests from teachers, that we should

purchase 2 additional ones as a back-up (4 total). Mr. Cramer said that he has some information about the equipment from Hopkins and he will pass that along to Ms. Nagata.

Treasurer's Update (Cramer on behalf of our treasurers):

- The checking account fluctuates while our savings/carnival remain consistent. Current balance stands at \$117,052.
- December income/expenses:
 - Continue to receive corporate donations.
 - Science camp is "caught up" although it looks as if there's an excess of \$5868. We will have other costs associated with it (transportation) so it should zero out.
 - We've had a big payment for yearbook however, we will start to see revenue as people order their yearbooks.
 - Additional Weekly Readers have been ordered.
 - Confirmed that Primary Grades will receive \$2000 for their letter reward. Each grade will receive \$500 to spend as they see fit.
 - Question about 4th grade field trip and why there is an excess of funds. Seems that we have not made the payment for the bus costs. Mr. Lotz will check with the Grade 4 teachers.
 - Discussion about how we get **bus transportation** receipts and if they are properly identified. Teachers usually give them to Cara and so they are already labeled before MVSA receives them.
- Budget:
 - Did well with the Halloween carnival (profit)
 - **Added amount approved for Eagle Scout project to Beautification budget**
 - Have the one-time expense that will go towards the marquee.

Committee Updates (Lee/Berke):

- Will have volunteer appreciation in conjunction with movie night. Will provide VIP seating.
- Jogathon is March 31st. This is also Cesar Chavez day but does not seem to be a concern.
- Multi-cultural day has been postponed until Spring (April?). Looking at a daytime, possibly a Saturday event.
- Disaster preparedness: Rana Singh hasn't made the purchases. Anticipates doing so in the next couple of weeks.
- Letter Reward/6th grade promotion: Great response to the email blast targeted at Grade 6 parents. 22 parents signed up via Sign-Up Genius and one even volunteered to chair. Mr. Lee will follow-up and have that parent contact and work with Mr. Rivera. Ms. Nagata stated that when she was responsible, she created a binder. Check to see if Mr. Rivera has it.
- Safety Patrol: Again, more volunteers solicited through the email blast.

Old Business:

- Ride and Roll to School. Ms. Jessica Cruz represents the program (Safe Routes to School) that is sponsored by Alameda County. There are a variety of programs that encourage students to walk, bike or carpool to school. There are teacher's guides (aligned to Common Core), bikemobiles, assemblies, bike blenders, etc. We agreed that this is a great program for us to hook into and Ms. Cowan offered to be the liaison for the Golden Sneaker Contest. For 2 weeks in March, students will tally the number (per class) of students who came to school by walking or riding. At the end of the 2 weeks, the class with the most gets a party along with a golden sneaker. Ms. Cruz' contact info is: jcruz@transformca.org
- Volunteer appreciation: There was concern that we may have overlooked some volunteers or that there are "unsung" heroes who will not be recognized. Our goal is to have a Fall and Spring recognition with the hope that we don't miss anyone. The "VIP" honor will be kept low key. A suggestion was made to have a huge sheet cake in honor of all of our volunteers.
- Marquee: Mr. Cramer has been talking with the sign vendor. The biggest expense is the installation and digging. Once purchased, the district will "own" the project management. Discussion about whether we should keep with one-side or go to two-sided (an additional \$5K).
 - Motion (Lotz/Lee) to go with a 2-sided Marquee and increase the spending limit to \$30,000. (carried)
- E-waste/recycle day: Ms. Nagata has been communicating with the chair of this event. They've taken inventory and met with the e-waste people. At some point, she will contact Ms. Randolph to set up a date. Discussed the possibility of having the bikemobile and e-waste on the same day.

New Business:

- Scheduling: concern that when MVSA tries to schedule events, the building (MUR) is already being used by other groups (mainly CYO or Boy Scouts). Possible to set up a consistent schedule (e.g. every 1st/3rd Friday, MVSA will have an event) a year in advance? Need to confirm with Ms. Randolph this Spring.
- Outside groups pay the district and then a small portion of the fee goes back to MV.
- Concern that some of the outside groups do not take good care of our facility.

Meeting was adjourned (Cowan/Lee) at 8:42.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Berke