

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MINUTES

February 3, 2017

8:40 -10AM

****Disclaimer:** These notes are not official school or FA approved minutes. They are informational notes taken during coffee hour.

FA GENERAL MEETING

- Ice skating event is this Sunday, February 5th from 1-2:30 at the Mullins Center. FA paid \$375 for the rental of ice and skates. Bring family and friends. Fifth grade is having a bake sale.
- Pi Night is scheduled for 3/14 after school (5-7). There will be a Pie auction fundraiser (for 8th grade class trip) and a pie eating contest. Math teachers are involved to help plan match activities and "PIE" type foods will be served. Planning meeting is on Wed February 8th at 2:30 at Panera. Email Kristin Deitz if interested in planning but unable to attend this meeting.
- Ice Cream Social is being planned to celebrate PVCICS 10 year anniversary. It is being planned for May and will be held in the pavilion after school. Possible we will stagger times for K-1 and 2+. Looking in to the Singing Dragons for this event as well.
- PARENT QUESTION ABOUT PARKING FOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL: it is a common concern and options about parking are being considered. Using the BOSON SHUTTLE is an option.
- Valley Gives fundraiser is in May, Megan Murphy Wolf is heading this.
- Original Works fundraiser is planned for near Mother's/Father's Day. Jen Argy is heading this.
- Treasurer's update: Budget report passed around for all.
- Diane Preston is moving so FA committee is losing our treasurer. We are seeking a new treasurer. Some interest has been shown.
- The school logo is finalized and new spirit wear will be ordered. We asked those present if there were certain items people wanted with school logo. No responses given.

PRINCIPAL CONVERSATION TIME WITH KATHY

- Carol Young, board member, spoke. Board meetings are on first Thursday of each month and are open to all. Last night was the trustee committee. Annual recruitment for Board is running 2/5/17

through 2/ 22/17. Nominees will be presented at the April Board meeting. All involved individuals in and outside PVCICS community should consider running if they support the mission of our school. There will be an info session next Friday, Feb 10th at 8:30AM for more information about applying for the BOARD and what is involved.

- PARENT QUESTION ABOUT BOARD MINUTES ON WEBSITE: Not currently available on website. All hardcopies are available at request.
- BOARD By-laws are currently being reviewed by the state. Looking to possibly add a teacher and High School (age 15 or older) student to BOARD.
- 2 basketball games were played yesterday, boys and girls middle school. Both teams won.
- IB info session was last week (1/27/17) and had a good turnout. Contact Kathy with further questions regarding IB program.
- PVCICS charter has been renewed without conditions and is good for another 5 years.
- An amendment has been submitted to add more slots but DOE has not yet decided. Next BOE meeting is on 2/28 and this is possibly on their agenda, but PVCICS won't know for certain if on agenda until shortly before meeting. The initial request for slots was not accepted as there were too many slots so PVCICS reduced the number of slots. Kathy was not certain about the numbers but estimated that the initial request was for 1080 total slots and it has been reduced to a request for 1036 (rolled out to max over 13 years).
- PVCICS currently has 470 students with authority for a max of 584. In order to purchase a new building for school and grow school programs they need the higher head count authority. Demand at PVCICS is currently in the elementary grades, not in HS. There are only a handful of K-12 Charter schools in MA.
- RECENT SHELTER IN PLACE AT SCHOOL: Kathy sent out an email recently and some parents were concerned. A SHELTER IN PLACE is when the children need to stay out of the hall and is not the same as a LOCKDOWN. A LOCKDOWN is a higher threat. Kathy did have three requests for more info after email was sent. She is unable to give specific details about the incident but offered examples of what could cause a SHELTER IN PLACE (1. medical emergency in which hallway needs to be cleared, 2. a unarmed disruption in hallway in which administration is trying to assist and 3. weather related incident in which students need to shelter). If a child needs to use the bathroom during a SHELTER IN PLACE it is advised by police that the teacher call office for clearance. If threat is not in that hallway the child may be escorted to the bathroom.

- PARENT QUESTION REGARDING MORE INFO ABOUT SHELTER IN PLACE: concerned that they are not receiving enough info about the incident and asked for a ROBO call will more info. Kathy said she is not at liberty to discuss the details.
- Hadley Police now has a new SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER, Officer Mike. He introduced himself at the last staff meeting. He may come to meet the kids at lunch in the future. He wants to get to know the kids and parents. Officer Mike said PVCICS has best security cameras in Hadley.
- Consider inviting Officer Mike to Pi night/Pie eating contest.
- PARENT QUESTION REGARDING ADDING LIGHTING TO PARKING LOT: No current plans are in place. Discussed the switch to LED lighting, which has been ongoing. Motion lamps were questioned as an option. Adding outdoor lighting would be very pricey. There are more people here in evening hours so it is something to look further at.
- February break is in two weeks.
- February 15th is the first lottery for next school year. Encourage friends and family to get applications in ASAP. They are due Monday 2/13/17 at 5pm.
- Sibling applications are also due now. It is advantageous to get sibling applications in the first lottery.
- Current application numbers were reported as follows: Kindergarten-approx 66, 6th grade- about 20, 9th grade- about 12.
- School needs 88 Kinder applications by 3/15. Applications will be accepted all summer.
- PARENT QUESTION ABOUT MCAS UPDATE: MCAS starts in March. PVCICS currently does the minimum of computer based testing required by state (will be all computer based, per state, by 2019). MCAS schedule is posted on website.
- STAMFORD 10 testing is standardized testing done in all grades used to offer academic info to the state.
- Computer based standardized testing will require that students are trained in use of taking. Particularly for 8th grade math and typing in equations.
- FA will possibly provide snacks for testing days.

- Anxiety is a common topic these days and more about this is being heard about in school. PVCICS has partnered with Hadley Fire and student nurses to run a program that will include NUTRITION, FITNESS and FIRE FIGHTER FITNESS, and MINDFULNESS/COPING WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY. This will initially be geared towards middle school and they are looking at elementary as well in the future.