

Voorhees HS PTSO – Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2021

Attendance –

John Simpson – Assistant Principal, VHS

Amanda Mahon – PTSO President

Jonathan Lapoff - PTSO Vice President

Tracy Fly - PTSO Secretary

Nancy Slota – PTSO Treasurer

Three public attendees - Pam (Shammy Shine idea), Tricia (offered Facebook help) and one unknown parent.

Amanda Mahon called the meeting to order – 7:05 PM

Meeting Minutes – will be approved at each monthly meeting, and then will be sent to members and posted online on the VHS PTSO webpage.

Welcome Everyone

- **New officers**, Nancy Slota & Tracy Fly, were welcomed to the group.
- **Zoom time is limited to 40 minutes** per Zoom account but if we time out, just log back in and we will have another 40 min.
- The **public** is kindly requested to be on mute and encouraged to join at the announcements portion of our meeting and/or email us at vooheeshsptso@gmail.com
- **Brief intro to the VSH PTSO:** This is a volunteer group made up of parents, staff and students who support the school and fundraise to positively support student and staff experiences. We raise funds for student of the month awards, staff appreciation, Project Graduation and Senior Scholarship Awards.

1. OLD BUSINESS

A. July Board Minutes: *All Board members read and were in Favor of July Board Minutes.*

B. Class of 2021 Kona Ice Cream Truck and Senior T-Shirts: Because of Covid, normal fundraising and activities were not possible so these were great, simple, fun & affordable ideas for last Graduation.

C. PNC check address-updated and printed: Nancy and Amanda met this Summer and got everything set up and squared away with the PTSO accounts for this year.

D. Schedule shredding of 2020 unused Raffle Tickets for May 2022: Amanda confirmed that Mr. Simpson still has Raffle tickets from 5/2022 and will plan to shred in May 2022. Mr. Simpson confirmed.

E. PTSO Facebook page. In the past, there was a PTSO Facebook Page but now we need someone to manage this and ensure that multiple people would be able to access and update as appropriate as volunteers change over time. Our parent volunteer (Tricia) indicated that she would be willing to help in this area as she maintains her work FB page. Will follow up as appropriate.

F. Renewed Insurance Policy. Other policy options were investigated but they did not provide a better alternative so the PTSO renewed the same policy.

All NH-V BOE requested paperwork has been completed and submitted for the PTSO to keep running for the 2021-2022:

1. PTSO Board Member's name, address and position
2. PTSO's Financial Statement
3. Copy Insurance Policy for 2021-2022
4. Bylaws (although have not changed)

2 TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Raffle License renewal is in the works (expires in Nov 2021) and Raffle account balances are listed below.

B. June 2021 - August 2021 Bank details are as follows:

Starting Balance 6/1/2021: \$5613.39

Expenses - Reimburse Overpay (\$10.00)
 Senior Awards (\$34.86)
 Senior T-shirts (\$1,616.30)
 Fast Signs (\$34.86)
 Kona Ice (\$700.00)
 Total Expenses (\$2,461.16)

Ending Balance 6/30/21: \$3,152.23

Raffle Account (as of 6/30/21) \$550.00

Starting Balance 7/1/2021: \$3,152.23

Expenses - New Checks with corrected address (\$70.84)

Ending Balance 7/31/21: \$3,081.39

Raffle Account (as of 7/31/21) \$550.00

Starting Balance 8/1/2021: \$3,081.39

Income - Amazon Smile Deposit \$20.17

Expenses - Insurance Renewal (\$401.00)

Ending Balance 8/31/21: \$2,700.56

Processed after 9/1/2021:

Paypal Deposit - Pending as of 9/13/21 \$96.15

Anticipated expenses:

- Annual report to be filed in November - Anticipated cost of \$30

- Biennial renewal of raffle license application has been received. Renewal must be received by the state 15 days prior to expiration. Our license expires 3/14/22. Prior treasurer's recommendation is to file as early as December - Cost of \$100

Raffle Account (as of 8/31/21) \$550.00

3. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MR. SIMPSON

- Mr. Simpson shared that the PTSO historically has struggled with parent participation; however, if Project Graduation is not funded properly, parents do step up, even if it is in the last hour. It's important to keep things simple. Online stores and simple online fundraisers are great for ease and Covid protocols. Best to avoid anything too complicated or requiring too many hands, will be more difficult to staff/run.
- The teachers really loved the Gift Cards for Dunkin Donuts and they enjoyed the breakfast provided. Kids love getting gift cards as well.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Consideration to customize membership packages/update online forms, parents only membership \$20, family of 3 or more adding students \$25, announce PTSO members only for scholarship eligibility.** *All Board Members in Favor of new Fee Structure and attaching membership with scholarship eligibility.*
 - Prepayment of all four years - it was suggested that this could be discounted to encourage payment of dues.
 - Mr. Simpson reminded us that this PTSO's biggest struggle is participation so there was a concern over increasing fees even though surrounding High Schools have a similar membership structure. We don't want to discourage anyone from helping or joining the PTSO. It was agreed that attaching membership with scholarship eligibility makes a lot of sense.
- Tax exempt info to paid members for their tax filing purposes.** *Agreed, great idea.*
- Consideration for reduced Annual Membership donation- \$6 for parents who are Emergency Responders (Police, First Aid, Fire) or Veterans, all VHS staff, teacher employees and BOE members.** *All Board Members in Favor of reduced Annual Membership donation.*
- Forms for fundraising facility reservations indoor/outdoor, snack shack, auditorium, dining/cafeteria area.** Our contact for fundraising questions is Mr. McGeehan.

5. CALENDAR ITEMS AND FUNDRAISERS

A. New Fundraising Ideas. Of course all ideas and dates must be run past Mr. McGeehan so they don't overlap with current fundraising efforts and Mr. Simpson also indicated that prepackaged meals/foods best due to Covid. Mr. Simpson will also check into Facility Use Forms.

1. **Flower Power Online Fundraiser-** Fall, Holiday and Spring. Sounds like we will initiate this fundraiser in the Spring. Tracy will follow up.
2. **Casino Night, with/without food.** Per Mr. Simpson, this might be possible if it is held off campus if this is not something the school wants to hold. He will follow up. Nancy will follow up to see how Casino night was run in her district.
3. **Fashion Show, with/without food- Fall or Spring.** Everyone thought this would be a great idea. Amanda offered to chair.
4. **Grade Competitive Parent PTSO Membership drive with possible prizes to grade with most memberships- Fall through Spring.**
5. **Take out/pick up pasta and/or other optional dinners with soda, tea, bottled water, etc.- Anytime**
6. **Holiday Craft Fair- early Dec., with/without food.** Local businesses and parents can sell goods. Mr. Simpson will check on the possibility of this.
7. **Cookie Dough- late Fall, early Dec.** All agreed this is a good idea especially if it's an online process.
8. **Yankee Candle online fundraiser - late Fall, early December.** Not available online currently.
9. **Battle of the Bands / Talent Show - timing unknown.** All agreed, great idea.
10. **Coupon Card Fundraiser to help support local businesses and raise money- Fall.** North Hunterdon HS utilizes this fundraiser on their website (participants get a key chain and a key tag). The idea is that if you use it 2-3 times, it pays for itself. The board thinks this is a lucrative idea because people love coupons and the businesses love advertising.
11. **Comedy Night.** All agreed, great idea.
12. **Shammy Shine 30% Back Fundraiser** - late fall for holiday gifts and in Spring possibly. Everyone LOVED this idea.... simple, easy and a much-needed/wanted item.
13. **Sneaker Drive Fundraiser.** Mr. Simpson did one of these for the Soccer team at North through Sneakers Plus. Nancy will find out more from a company that manages a shoe drive for a fundraiser and Mr. Simpson said he has shoes to donate.
14. **Buy in Bulk Discounted Gift Cards for Graduation or Holiday gift giving.** Will investigate further.
15. **Halloween Dance for Freshman.** Probably not feasible since there will be a Homecoming Dance in early October for the entire school. Mr. Simpson also shared that there are dance fundraisers already held for each grade by a different grade. He believes there is a dance for Freshman held by the Seniors, he will check.

B. Prior fundraising

1. **Memberships - Currently \$15, All year**
2. **Roll over from last year- Spirit Wear online store** Since another group already sells full apparel spirit wear at VSH, it appears that we should be able to run an online store for accessories with the school logo like masks, string bags, water bottles, car magnets, hats and such. Will need to further investigate with Mr. McGeehan. Mr. Simpson will check into this accessory option and he noted that the kids LOVE "trucker hats" with a mesh back. Mr. Simpson also noted that the Sneakers Plus store has helped with online apparel fundraisers.

3. **Roll over from last year- Vikings Cotton Mask fundraiser, ETSY local contact.**
4. **Roll over from last year-ShopwithScript discount program**
5. **Local restaurants- we get % of the dinners sold**(Buffalo Wild Wings and Riley & Jakes were mentioned)
Popular fundraisers locally and not labor intensive.
6. **Dine Italian- onsite VHS indoor dining.** Local restaurants donate all food/drink in exchange for advertising. Mr. Simpson will check and see if this is feasible. Seems that this will be very labor intensive and not easily managed with Covid.
7. **Chalk the Walk- Early Fall and/or mid-late Spring.** Mr. Simpson shared that we would have to approve what students would want to create. Seniors might better receive. It might be hard to get Freshman to participate. Campus is very busy, could be challenging to find a good time to run/get participants. Amanda added that since many of the officers have Freshman, we will ask our Freshman to see if they would be interested. Incentive could be a few prizes and/or an inexpensive food truck like Kona Ice.
8. **Class of 2022 Graduate Lawn Signs- March for May delivery**
9. **Teacher/Staff Appreciation- early April for early May.** We will need a teacher/staff headcount. Mr. Simpson will get those counts.

C. Project Graduation

1. **VHS Class of 2021, June.** Covid drastically changed the Senior year tradition last Spring but the PTSO was able to bring the Kona Ice Truck which the kids loved and give all the seniors T-shirts. A good time was had by all.
2. **VHS Class of 2022, June.** Senior Student count - Mr. Simpson will obtain.
3. **Activity (iPlay America or alike) Cost is over \$30,000+.** Senior Survey results indicated that they were interested in Food and iPlay America as well as a field day and a school lock-in.
4. **Grants for Prevention of Alcohol & Substance Use to help us pay for Project Graduation.** Amanda shared that other NJ districts have received such grants. Mr. Simpson will check and let us know if there are any Grant writers within the district. He said that the counseling office may be our best bet so he will check with them as well. Amanda shared that there is a NJ Grant Watch that charges a \$50.00 fee for a grant writer so might be worth checking into.

6. STUDENT AWARDS / GIFT CARDS / BUDGET: Students are nominated by teachers monthly based on citizenship etc. Gift cards are awarded for ice cream & donuts are given to kids in amounts of \$5 - \$10 typically. If kids are selected and pass breathalyzer at dances etc. they are awarded gift cards, and they love this per Mr. Simpson.

7. ADJOURNMENT. Thank you for your participation! Meeting adjourned by Amanda Mahon at 8:45 PM

Notes Submitted by: Tracy Fly