



MEETING MINUTES

Vista Academy Foundation, Inc.

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 – 5:30 to 7:00pm

I. Call Meeting to Order: Jill Harris

II. Roll Call: Benjie Walker, Jill Harris, Heather Gearing, Jaimee Pease, Shiloh Strawbridge, Rachel Stiehl, Sharon Scott-Gonzalez, Lori Ann Dotson, Emily Stewart, Erica Perez, Jorge Garcia, Shelly Hart, Tekoa Chilcote, Tiffany Hinostro, Mary Louise Dralle, Melissa Othon-Ramirez

III. Approve Minutes:

- A. *Heather makes a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting, Sharon seconds. No further discussion. Motion passes.*

IV. President's Report: Jill Harris

- A. Jill expresses thanks for all the parents who are taking ownership of their positions and there are a lot of positive impacts and changes for the school. We all have the common goal to raise as much money and give as much as possible to these kids.

V. Administrator's Report: Benjie Walker

- A. Benjie shares that the school is in the final stages of obtaining a marquee 8 feet wide and 5 feet tall. Benjie shares visuals of the sign. Color scheme is still being set and getting estimates but it looks like it will be done by a company in San Marcos. Screen will be full color, LED scrolling.
- B. School just finished a one-pager for the district which highlights what the program is all about at Vista Academy. Benjie shared a mock up of the finalized design. Highlights visual arts, performing arts, and learning program here at the school. The one-pager has the logo, vision, mission, and IB mindset on it. The Spanish translation just came back today and it will be available soon.
- C. Magnet application is coming up and families cannot walk through classrooms on tour and see everything in action so Admin came up with a 5 ½ minute video to highlight the special programs here at Vista Academy. Benjie will share with staff and then send out to the community. Room 28, talk about the program, show Program of Inquiry on the wall, show video to see specialty programs in action, then walk through learning spaces since it will be after school.

- D. Gearing up for holiday break.
- E. Benjie needs a parent representative for the Magnet Steering Committee. Tekoa is on the committee along with Benjie. Shiloh has served two years. It is a committee that was developed to look at the magnet schools, what are the app and lottery processes, what do the schools stand for, and provide info to the Superintendent and Board. Protect and value the original for why we have magnet schools in Vista Unified. How can we market more and continue to support and fund the magnet programs. The meetings are every couple months. The meetings can be long, usually 6-7:30pm but can go over. Benjie asks to spread the word for a new parent rep.
- F. Crazy rainy day but the children were able to play inside classrooms and eat under a shelter. Looking forward to the holiday break.

VI. Financials/Treasurer Report: Heather Gearing

- A. General Checking Account 0958: \$40,996.37
- B. General Savings Account 00941: \$5,001.34
- C. Adopt-A-Class 0966: \$29031.21
- D. HeArts Account: \$12,246
- E. Heather deposited Square almost \$1,700 which is the largest amount to date. Lori Ann did all the work behind the scenes.
- F. Heather is waiting on the check from Booktoberfest over \$21,000. Huge kudos to Kim as well. Thank you to all the students, staff, and parents for the generous support.
- G. Researching the Sage Garden Grant expenditures to know what the remaining balance is and will let the teachers know.
- H. Brief convo with Shelly regarding a conservatory budget. \$100 suggested at Monday meeting for each specialty so they have it. Shelly has questions regarding whether money in the account was available for them to spend as needed. Heather confirms that Foundation must still have a budget for what is being spent. Shelly says auditions are currently underway and total needs won't be known until after the audition process. Heather reiterates that the \$100 would just be some access to funds for anything needed as they start and then budget meeting can be redone when conservatories are ready. Shelly agrees.
- I. Jill says that Student Store was given a line item to get started and the store was very successful but there was a lot of items that needed to be stocked before opening. The inventory was cleaned out. Jill presents a motion from Jill to increase the line item of the Student Store to immediately restock the store between now and the next budget meeting. *Shiloh motions to increase the Student Store line item by \$500. Heather seconds the motion. No further*

discussion. Motions passes to increase the line item of the Student Store by \$500.

VII. Foundation Business: Jaimee Pease

- A. There are scholarship applications to review for the three scholarships. Benjie shared screen for attendees to review the apps and criteria. Sharon volunteered to answer any questions. Shiloh commented that she appreciates the level of thought going in to include all the grade levels

B. Janet Newman Submitted Application:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QA2FtUgHhAjL3rDLm0cUklcVQq40KrUk/view?usp=sharing>

Scholarship Criteria:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/0B0yrj2Oybt8_ZERIWW04V092RW8/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117522234311000306517&resourcekey=0-bAAJd5jA_OIH7E4hc6E7Fw&rtpof=true&sd=true

Shiloh motions to award this scholarship to the 2nd Grade Team for their proposed project. Tekoa seconds the motion. No further discussion. Motion passes.

C. Rodney Goldenberg Submitted Application:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uo4lFzwbDQSqhsJsapx-YcWM1CyD3F2Y/view?usp=sharing>

Scholarship Criteria:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/0B0yrj2Oybt8_cGZfQktXVVUtTUK/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114618197560618465268&resourcekey=0-0LTGy3rPwnHr9q9BELyh1Q&rtpof=true&sd=true

Shiloh has a question regarding which grades would be able to continue the project next year. Sharon states she would encourage students who haven't had a chance to participate. Shiloh stated that it would be great to find a way for all the students to have a chance to participate. K-1 will design the mural elements, conservatory classes will be painting, 5th grade students will design and paint based on 5th grade exhibition. *Shelly makes a motion to award Rodney Goldenberg 2021 Scholarship to the proposed applicants. Rachel seconds. No discussion. Motion passes.*

D. Anne Fennell Submitted Application:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BZl39717DRKkimtqsr06hEXiVHHqY0_d/view?usp=sharing

Scholarship Criteria:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/0B0yrj2Oybt8_eVgtVDFzT3IXNzA/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114618197560618465268&resourcekey=0-EyZpTQOayESkHybdZwjI7Q&rtpof=true&sd=true

Cal Center for the Arts grant would pay for half the proposed project which includes a workshop for 4th grade students. If the grant does not come through, the extra workshop will be paid for out of school funds. Scholarship requirements reviewed via shared screen. Question raised if this will be on site. Sharon confirms that this will be via video streaming with time allotted for student participation. These events have taken place at the school in the past and *Tekoa makes a motion to award the Anne Fennell 2021 Scholarship to the proposed applicant. Lori Ann seconds. Lori Ann notes that she loves these. Motion passes.*

VIII. Website Coordinator: Jaimee Pease

IX. IB Magnet Report: Sharon Scott Gonzales

- A. School tours start this week, every Thursday from 4-4:45 (check time in Smore)
- B. VAVPA Google Alumni Form, school wants to create a database of former students who utilize the arts or skills they learned at VAVPA. A former student recently won an Emmy Award and sparked the idea to make these connections with former students. The hope is to have them be speakers in the future so that the students and community can see the possibilities.

X. Conservatories: Shelly Heart

- A. Festival of the Arts audition. Just got confirmation that it is happening. It is last minute but the superintendent wants every school to participate. Great auditions today. 85% received a call back. Possible performance at moonlight in April. Auditions on Thursday. Deadline for signing up was on Monday. If there is anyone who wants to try and join, they should email Shelly. She will run it by the other teachers. They have to come with the packet filled out so parents are aware of all the requirements. Final cast list on Monday. Waiting until after the holidays to see what else is possible. Teachers don't want to cancel on students.
- B. Benjie says there will be some other opportunities with Visual Arts and Robotics.

XI. Adopt-a-Class: Tekoa Chilcote

- A. Tekoa received a list of donations so she can follow up with teachers. Teachers have been reminded to make the list and send it to Tekoa and Jaimee.
- B. Jaimee will publish the list on the website this weekend.
- C. Jaimee and Jill will update a flyer and encourage the digital ability to donate.

XII. StudentStore: Susan Mardt

- A. Shiloh wants to mention that we have a whole new crop of kids and many have experienced trauma. Outward behavior that warrants a purple slip might not be accessible to them right now. We want to make it known to every student that there is a way to earn one and they are capable. Our best looks different day by day.
- B. Some of the kids don't seem to be aware how they earn a purple slip.
- C. Jaimee asks about the issue of students using cash instead of purple slips and Jill responds that we are not advertising use of cash to purchase goods at the Student Store.

XIII. Literacy Chair: Tori Mizerak

- A. Shiloh gives an update for Tori. Our Winterfest Bags are another literacy bag. Every student K-5 is receiving the same interactive art book that highlights our IB learner skills. Every child will receive a bag before Winter break. Benjie loves this idea that every child will have a book, a craft, and a little gift. Tori and Rachel made this book happen at the last minute.

XIV. Fundraising: Kim Ball

XV. Spirit Wear: Jill Harris

- A. Spirit Wear has been mailed and will be here Monday. They will be delivered to teachers' boxes.

XVI. Dine Outs: Heather Gearing

- A. Jill: Dine Out with Water Shack was held last month. The final profit was \$150. Jill is very proud of that still given that it is mostly shaved ice and ice cream. We don't have any Dine Outs for December. We will pick them back up in February.

XVII. Grants: Rachel Stiehl

- A. Tiffany reported for Rachel on Grants. The gardens have been going on for the past two to three years with various grants. The first was the Sage Grant for \$15,000 and the second was the Rsf \$10,000, they are going in the .
- B. Tiffany welcomes Mary Louise Dralle who has been prepping all the beds and get the gardens going. She has been working on these since the garden program started with Tiffany and Denise. Some grant money was re-absorbed into the general fund accidentally. The money will be used to pay Mary as the Sage teacher. She is working Mon Wed Fri on the garden. Every first Saturday of the month is the garden work party.
- C. 1/17 will be a tree planting party for fruit trees and the regular January work party will not take place. We will be re-applying for the Sage Garden Grant.

- D. Benjie extended appreciation for all the hard work of Rachel, Tiffany, and Mary.

XVIII. Publicity: Community Outreach/Family Engagement: Jorge Garcia

- A. The amount of work going on behind the scenes is just delightful and everyone is working hard and it is so valued by the staff and other parents.
- B. Food: next week Jorge will be distributing food to make sure all the kids have enough to eat. It will be in the Smore. Monday-Wednesday next week.
- C. Magnet Application Season: Jorge will go around some early childhood educational centers and organizations to drop off some applications and give a presentation on the process. Anyone with any suggestions for where Jorge should go can email him

XIX. Social Emotional Chair Report: Lori Ann

- A. Reports that she has been trying to post regularly, several times a week, on social media. There's not a ton of response but a fair amount of people are seeing it. If anyone has any feedback, let Lori Ann know. Jaimee says she really loves the posts and says that printables are very popular if there are any social emotional printables for families to use at home.
- B. Lori Ann shared some resources with Benjie on school wide initiatives. They are pretty involved so it would be within our scope to do some of the initiatives as a school. Benjie states we are working on a social emotional team involving counselor, teachers, sp-ed teacher with leadership to grow the social emotional program.
- C. The district also has a district wide program with a lot of resources. Lori Ann will put together a matrix that will talk about the specifics of each of the initiatives. Focus in on SEL.
- D. We received an extra box from Square1 for another school. Jill thanks Lori Ann for everything that was done. Lori Ann gives a shout out to Sharon. She gave so much support to get Square 1 Art done. Smore was a big help to advertise Square1. Only two paper orders this year. It seems people have become a lot more acclimated to digital ordering.

XX. Roundtable

- A. Shiloh: The author of the Amulet series happens to be good friends with a VAVPA parent and is able to do two Zoom virtual field trips, one for 4th and one for 5th. This will kick off our May 16th Book Fair and will be no cost to us. Shiloh will try to do a gift aligned with this for the students and send one to the author as well. His wife is also a graphic novelist and will hop on the Zoom too. Kari Winchester is the parent.

XXI. Meeting Adjourned at: 7:16pm by Jill Harris

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