

Vail School District #20 Vail, Arizona
Sycamore Elementary School
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 14, 2022
4:00 p.m.

Present:

Ken Graff, Principal

Jen Jepson, Assistant to the Principal

Frank Hecht, Community Rep, Chair

Jennifer Shioya, Parent Rep, Clerk

Elisha Caywood, Parent Rep

Dani Vulgamott, Parent Rep

Kayla Rangel, Certified Rep

Olsen Hancock, Certified Rep

Megan McGowan, Classified Rep - absent

I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Frank Hecht at 4:01pm.

A. Pledge of Allegiance at 4:01pm.

B. Approval of Minutes Ms. Vulgamott moved to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Caywood seconded.

C. Reports

1. Administrative Report: Ken Graff, Principal

- PTA report on behalf of Ms. Barrett
 - Paint Night 09/02 great turnout. Ms. Roby and Mrs. Macias did an amazing job. ~140 or 150 paint sets sold; essentially sold out.
 - 15th annual Spooky Run Saturday, 10/22/2022. Full, in-person 5K run!
 - Chipotle Night next Wednesday 09/21.
 - New fundraiser with coupon books. \$25 each. Teachers get 50% of the sales made by their class to use in the classroom.
 - Math-a-thon coming up after Fall Break, this is the main fundraiser for the year.
 - Want to commend the PTA – in particular, Amber Barrett Pres, Alise Dozier VP.
- Parent/Teacher conferences this Thursday and Friday. Half days for the kids. 2Q starts next week. Teachers can also recommend intersession classes for Fall Break: 2nd grade: half day, 3-5th grades: all day.
- Tutoring is up and running this quarter, very successful.
- Student Council elections were a couple of weeks ago. President, VP, Historian, Treasurer, Secretary elected. Kids did so great, maintained their composure.
- Thursday evening 09/08: NEHS Induction Ceremony. New officers ran the ceremony with help from Ms. Rangel and Ms. Casey. 16 new 4th and 5th graders inducted.
- Ramping up the Reading Buddies program. Stephanie Langston sent out a call for volunteers. Started pairing volunteers to the students, will meet 1-2x a week to build a relationship with the kids and be a support for them. 12 volunteers or so signed up.
- Vail Pride Day nominations for support staff, teacher, volunteer of the year has started.
- Music Program.
 - Rachel Brozeman filling in as the long-term sub. Mr. G left detailed lesson plan structure so that she can follow. She is connecting, engaging with the kids. Next performance (planned for 11/16) for 2nd graders, may be pushed out. But she's going to try to do something with the 2nd graders.
 - Band, choir: Ms. Brozeman has a musical background, will take on band (5th

grade) and choir (4th and 5th grades) with Katie Savage (accomplished flutist). 2nd Tuesday after break, after school band program will start.

- Orchestra: Shayla Merrill (K-12 online music director) will take on orchestra after school program.
- Choir will be available as an elective. Practice would happen on the duplicate Specials day (can also choose from Art, SUMS, or PE).

D. Call to the Public

No members of the public present.

E. Recognitions

1. Ms. Shioya: Ms. Rangel/Ms. Casey for putting together a wonderful evening with the NEHS Induction Ceremony.
2. Mr. Hancock: Ms. Pangle for amazing support during testing. Benchmarks have gone smoothly thanks to her and Mr. Turner.
3. Ms. Jepson: Ashley Garcia: Great energy, gets the kids on track. Follows-up. Also want to thank all the staff for making her feel loved and supported by everyone as a new Asst to the Principal. Great enthusiasm.
4. Mr. Graff: Great 1Q. Tutoring teachers: Ms. Gossen 2nd, Ms. Peck 3rd, Ms. Middendorf 4th, Ms. Rangel 5th. Ms. Rangel and Ms. Casey for NEHS and recognizing the kids. Ms. Krup for Student Council work on campaigns, speeches. Ms. Roby on Paint Night. Ms. McGowan for handling the kids with complicated medical needs. Connie Sullivan in Kinder jumps in, doesn't hesitate to help out. Michelle Clarno and Cristine Hancock paraprofessionals in K/1st. Supporting the teachers so well.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Fundraiser: NEHS Mini Pumpkin Painting at CFMS Fall Festival

NEHS requesting to fundraise at CFMS Fall Festival with a mini-pumpkin painting booth. Funds raised will be used to support NEHS.

Ms. Shioya moved to approve. Ms. Vulgamott seconded.

III. Old Business

A. 2022-2023 Staffing and Enrollment

- Currently have 702 students enrolled (0 in Vail Virtual Learning). January projections: 705.
- Kinder, 1st, 2nd, 3rd: good numbers. 4th and 5th over capacity.
- Certified Staff: Need Music teacher, inclusion specialist (meeting with a candidate on Monday).
- Classified Staff: Hired a Special Needs paraprofessional, need one more.

B. Facilities Update

- Replaced 3 water fountains this year (~\$1100 each). Looking at replacing more as possible.
- Playground erosion is severe. Would like tiered levels and curbing to stop erosion down to the field, maybe even some artificial turf. Also have erosion around the basketball courts. School Facilities board sent out an architect who has already come out and surveyed, but haven't heard back yet, so they turned it.
- Dave Bang and Associates came out Friday morning for more shade in the front. Hoping to put up two sunshades with a single post/umbrella style over the 5th grade pickup waiting

area by March, perhaps another two where 1st graders wait. Trying to stay under \$25k. PTA has fundraised; some Covid relief money remains.

- 10/22/2022: Make a Difference Day. NEHS, StuCo, LDS church to work on some projects to beautify of the campus.

IV. New Business

A. Dress Code

Mr. Graff asked the Council to review updates to the dress code. The Council went through the dress code to adjust and suggest updates. An updated version will be provided next month for review and approval.

B. SWIS Update (School Wide Information System)

When negative behavior leads to a referral (harassment, theft, language, property damage, fight, defiance, physical aggression, etc), various data is taken, such as location, grade, time of day. This info is taken and used to address issues and work with staff (e.g. more staff at recess, etc.) to prevent more from happening. Core team reviews data once a month, shared with Site Council quarterly. Provide as much support for kids as possible to try to help keep them on the right track.

C. Campus Safety

- Mr. Graff reported that all classrooms have updated lockdown kits (5gal bucket, trash bag, gloves, First Aid Kit, TP, duct tape, case of water).
- Worked with Sheriff's deputy to get a sample kit that includes a tourniquet and special compression gauze for wounds. Planning to get 2 kits (one in health office). Law enforcement said not really necessary to have one in each classroom.
- 10/20/2022: All staff (certified/classified) training by SR Deputy Slattery. Mr. Hecht asked if Site Council can join in on that, Mr. Graff will ask.
- Planning to add cameras in blind spots to give a better view of the campus.
- Have a lockdown drill per semester on top of monthly fire drills.
- Will also have a fire drill during recess (more chaotic time).
- Ms. Caywood would like lockdown drills more often than once per semester, at least quarterly if not more often, and ideally during a more chaotic time than in class. Also, suggested that a "stranger danger" or situational awareness training for the kids could be beneficial for the community, during an assembly or after school, etc. Mr. Graff: Yes, this is doable, as well as perhaps adding something in a newsletter to parents. Bike Rodeo also strives to address some of these "awareness" situations.

This will remain on the agenda as a running item.

D. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 10/18/2022 at 4:00pm.

E. Adjournment

Ms. Rangel moved to adjourn. Ms. Caywood seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.