

Cerro Villa Middle School PFSO

September 19, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Location: CVMS Library

Members Present: Jason Forgash, Alicia Gonzalez, Nancy Savage, Mary Thomason, Wendy McGrane, Grace Yin, Andrea Lui, Joy Nguyen, Megan Artherton, Erin Flynn, Michelle Tao, Beth Brunett, Ashlie Tuggle, Jaclyn Pelot, Katie Marx, Nicole Ankenman, Shelly Johnson, Michele Norman, Jeffrey Jones, Jennifer Emter, Dorothy Glickman, Vaishalee Sampat, Kathleen Lim-Valle

Start Time: The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

Previous Minutes Approval: Erin Flynn made a motion to approve May minutes. Wendy McGrane seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report - Jason Forgash

- Welcome
- CV may be using the 5 Star app soon. While this app has some controversy at the high school level, please be assured that the intention in its roll out here at CV is *positive tracking*. Teachers can scan student ID cards and award them points they can then use toward rewards. The more controversial aspects of it are not in play at this time.
- When people inquire about fights, etc., I let them know that I feel discipline is going very well. That said, it occurred to me that many of our students may not know what they should do if a fight breaks out around them. Perhaps that would be something our School Resource Officer (SRO) Deputy McDermott can address in the future. Perhaps as part of Bullying Prevention Month.

Principal's Report - Mr. Jones

- Mr. Jones was a P.E. teacher at CV from 2005-2014, then Assistant Principal at VPHS for 5 years. Most recently he was the Principal at Nohl Canyon Elementary for four years. He's very excited to be here and feels he's in the right place and coming back home.
- Assistant Principal Kori Fernandez is new to the district but comes with great experience and they are enjoying working together and creating a shared vision for CV. Kori's motto is "Culture is intentional" and they are striving to be intentional about the culture at Cerro Villa.
- We're starting off the year with sprinkles of change for our current 8th graders, but our 7th graders only know Mr. Jones and Ms. Fernandez as their CV administrators. They will continue to put little systems in place to improve campus life without making the change overwhelming for returning students.
- Example: the phone policy has been in place, but they're enforcing "no cell from bell to bell". Last week they went from 29 phones confiscated on Monday as they implemented this new goal, with fewer collected each day, down to 9 on Friday. Students were rewarded with a Free Dress Day as a reward. Monday there were zero phone confiscated! Staff has reported students conversing more as a result of better enforcing this policy.
- Thankful for PFSO support!

ASB Report - Mrs. Marx

- Co-teaches ASB/Leadership with Ms. Dao. Mrs. Marx has prep 1st Period and will be doing the PFSO updates. Ms. Dao has 7th Period prep and will use that to set up for events, etc.

- 7th Grade Aloha Dance this Friday! Pre-Covid we had separate 7th and 8th grade dances and this is our first time returning to that post-Covid. It's Hawaiian themed and will have a number of fun activities for students.
- Upcoming events to watch for:
 - Fall Fundraiser
 - National Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Student of the Month next Wednesday
 - October Bullying Prevention Month
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - 8th Grade Dance
- We have a schoolwide Google Classroom where we post information for the student body including a weekly schedule that features that week's daily activities.
- We're bringing back the Student Store! Students will be able to earn points and make purchases at the student store, which will be open twice a week at lunch. We're hoping to stock it with spirit wear, school supplies, event tickets, snacks, etc.
 - Note: The PFSO is looking for a volunteer to step into a new role as a Student Store Liaison. This person will work closely with Mrs. Marx and Ms. Dao to determine what items are needed, what items are selling, and manage volunteer sign-ups to work the store twice weekly during the teachers' much-needed lunch break. Please email cvpfso@gmail.com if you are interested!

Treasurer Report - Michelle Tao

- Please review the Balance Sheet as of 8/31 and the Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year.
 - Notable budget changes: Fireworks brought in significantly more this year as the board decided to work many shifts themselves. We've added a budget line for Viking Angels to assist CV families dealing with a medical emergency, etc. We've also added a line for the new Viking Student Store to assist in purchasing the goods for sale. Finally, there is a line for the Orange Unified Public School Foundation (OUPSF) that is strictly in and out. Designated grant money is given to us to give directly to CV staff members who have been chosen as recipients.
- Michele Norman motions to approve 2023-2024 CV PFSO Budget. Wendy McGrane seconds. Budget approved.

Old Business

- Shade Structure Update - Jason Forgash
 - Everything is still TBD. Between new admin here at CV and Joe Erven leaving on the district side, we're catching everyone up on where we are and how we got here. We are still hitting up against the ADA accommodations needed being far beyond the budget quoted years ago.
 - Reminder: This project was determined before we were involved in the PFSO. We still have all of the money accounted for, we are just trying to find the path forward. Preferably one that involves some kind of shade.

New Business

- Ways & Means - Michelle Tao

- Our “Fall into Giving” Fundraiser will run October 2nd-16th with a goal of raising \$22,000 this year. The funds will go toward safety upgrades, auditorium improvements, and grants for teacher wish list items.
- **LegCo Report - Beth Brunett**
 - September is Attendance Awareness Month. Pre-Covid attendance rates were at 96%, but they had fallen to 92% at the end of last year. Each percentage point is \$3Million in revenue per year, so that 4% drop is a \$12Million loss for the district on kids who are enrolled, but they are not consistently coming to school.
 - Each absent student costs the district roughly \$45 a day in funding, but all of the expenses stay the same (teachers, utilities, curriculum, etc.) Please schedule your appointments, vacations, etc. outside of school hours whenever possible. If it’s not possible, a partial school day is better than a full absence!
 - We have a new Superintendent: Ernie Gonzalez. He was promoted from Acting Superintendent.
 - State Senator Dave Min’s office discussed a bill to regulate e-bikes that has had no opposition thus far. It is expected to make it to the governor’s desk.
 - U.S. Representatives Correa & Kim’s offices shared about a Congressional App Challenge open to middle and high school students. Please see the flyer with more information at cvpfso.org
 - OUPSF’s Car Raffle tickets are on sale through October 27th. A portion of sales goes directly back to the school/booster/club selling.
- **Dance Chair - Alicia Gonzalez**
 - We have 4 parent chaperones for Fridays dance. We’ll be double-checking the number of tickets sold and purchasing snacks this week. What time can we set-up? 7th period.
 - **Note:** The volunteer system has been cleared district-wide, so everyone who will be volunteering on campus - including at this Friday’s dance! - will need to redo their <5 Hours Volunteer Certifications. The links are on the homepage at cvpfso.org

Parent Q&A

- Parent concern regarding boys locker room at P.E.
 - Mr. Jones will follow up on this, and encourages parents to remind students to make sure their locks are tightly secured.
- Parent requests Dress Code clarification.
 - **Bottoms:** Black or navy blue uniform bottoms
 - **Tops:** CV polo shirts, CV club/spirit shirts, VPHS shirts, military branch shirts, and college shirts
 - **Sweatshirts/Jackets:** Cerro Villa, CV club/spirit wear, VPHS, military branches, colleges. Solid outerwear without designs. Please note: outerwear may have hoods, but hoods *must* remain down unless it is raining.
 - **Shoes:** Closed-toed only. No Crocs during P.E.

Special Presentation: Signs of Suicide “SOS” Program - Mrs. Emter, Mrs. Glickman, Mrs. Sampat

- We’re increasing our student interactions so that they’ll feel more familiar and hopefully more comfortable coming to us. We’re continuing “Wellness Wednesdays” at P.E. once a month, and this year we’ve added Counselors in the Quad.
- This is our third year doing the SOS Program here at CV. We were the first to pilot the program in the district, but all the middle schools will have it this year.

- There's a persistent myth that talking about suicide gives kids the idea, but research shows that's untrue. Kids need to know they can come to us and discuss anything.
- Teens have the highest suicide rate of all age groups and it's the second leading cause of death for teens.
- In this program we discuss warning signs to watch for in themselves and others, and what they can do to help. We especially want them to know that depression is treatable and there are protective factors they can use to improve their mental health.
- They are taught the acronym - **ACT: Acknowledge, Care, Tell**
- Another hurdle with teens is getting past the feeling that they are tattling, snitching, or betraying someone by telling an adult if they notice someone struggling.
- What can parents do?
 - Don't rush to solve your child's problems. Help them build resilience.
 - Ask your child open-ended questions. Ask about their mental health directly and indirectly. "Have you ever thought about hurting yourself?"
 - Take advantage of talking time when it's not direct eye contact (car rides, shopping, watching tv, yardwork, etc.)
 - Discuss relevant themes in movies/tv shows you watch together.
 - You, too, can **ACT!** Acknowledge that you're seeing signs of suicide in your child. Show your child that you **Care. Tell** a professional.
 - Take note of the 988 Crisis Line for yourself, your family, and friends.
- You can find more info on the SOS Program in Mr. Jones' weekly newsletter.
- As always, parents who do not want their kids to participate in this program may choose to opt-out.
- At the conclusion of this program, each participating child is given a paper asking if they need to speak with a counselor, and if they elect to talk to counselor, we will have extra support on hand to meet the demand.

End Time: Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Beth Brunett, PFSO Secretary 2023-2024

The next PFSO Meeting is October 17th, at 8:30am in the CVMS Library.