

Minutes
Parent Meeting Verdi Eco School
May 16 2019
Highland Houe

Call to order: 17.45

Breath: Hot Cocoa Breath

GENERAL

- Last parent meeting of this school year
- Next meeting 3rd day in August
- US (Upper School) Anti-bullying curriculum "Project Happiness": Awareness of emotions and how we project those emotions.
- Student assembly was conducted due to hurtful words, hurtful actions that happened in the school: Students are concerned that after they voice their concern nothing happened. Students came up with a step by step process on what to do in times of crisis.
- After the steps have been taken and child is still struggling the child will enroll into an anti- bullying course.
- If hurtful behavior continues after course, it needs to redetermined if the school is the right fit for the student and if the school can meet the students needs.
- All behavior is communication and hurtful behavior is a way of communication and the school is trying to be more pro-active instead of being re-active.
- Project happiness will be posted on the Parent Portal, so parents can be tuned into what happens.
- Monthly theme for conscious discipline.
- This year is the first year that the school implements CD. Immersion of CD for an entire school is a several year long commitment. Parents need to be schooled as well in CD, so all parents know the lingo and the philosophy.
- Transparency helps to keep CD at the school and at home alive.
- The goal for the school is to keep communication open in order to address challenges and keep the entire process transparent.

SUMMER

- School Family Code of Conduct: Communication in the interest of being respectful and being open to differences of opinion.
- This year, for the first time, school was confronted with some very different opinions and styles of communications. Hence, as a community we need to come up with a code of conduct. Parent to parent, to student to admin etc.
- Potential committee, or share via e-mail so everybody can be involved and it is done before the beginning of next school year

DREXEL

- Facilitates a Highschool program
- And how to replicate the K-8 model and will be around a lot at the school beginning July
- Ayana will be traveling a lot to learn and bring new ideas, resources back to the school
- Other founders will come to learn
- This school is seen as a model school and others will be coming in to see and learn
- Will be involved in parent meeting and board meeting

- They want to learn everything
- They will have a name tag and be recognizable

HIGH SCHOOL

- Highschool committee has created the 1st year of the Highschool which will be a hybrid model
- Already 5 students enrolled which was the goal

CAPOEIRA

- Not enough interest from the kids to continue
- Maybe it will be a choice option for next year
- Some kids already have uniforms which can be used for the new capoeira class
- Creating an interest inventory

MEDICAL EXAMS

- Eye exams
- Scoliosis test
- Hearing test
- Are needed for certain grades
- School has to bear the costs for kids in certain grades where this is needed
- Diet recommendations from a nutritionist could be an option

COMMUNITY VOTE

- Results: please see e-mail sent out previously

STUDENT RETURN RATE FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

- NI- 16 are returning - 15 in waiting list - 4 spots available
- J- 9 returning- 6 applications - 3 spots available
- HS: 2 additional applications to the already 5 students
- US- 22 return -9 applications- 10 spots available:
- US: 4 kids in each ability group with 2 educators so kids would grow to 42 students. Staff will talk about it and then it will be brought to parents.
- Skill based teaching with co-teaching model
- Due to the school offering therapeutic support (alternative school) Some students have profound medical needs, on the spectrum etc.
- Parent concern: What is the school realistically able to offer for students with special needs.
- Trial days and trial periods help to get the students to know to give educators an idea if the needs/safety for students can be met.
- The school is inclusive and it def. works better when parents are involved at the school.
- Language could be adapted for a 60 day trial period to let every one know. Interested parents can get very angry and it can get destructive when parents are told the kids cant be kept safe and needs cant be met. It is hard for admin to tell this to parents.
- Parent idea: Would it be an idea to hire additional educators on the parents dime in order to be able to accommodate extra needs for children.

- The school would love to hire core educators to meet special needs. A second teacher as a floater would also be helpful.
- Part time teachers don't work, as they leave the school in the middle of the semester. A full time educator is what is needed as they need to be a part of the team. Team can be trained, kids get to know them and can trust the educator vs. meeting new part timers.

FACILITY

- Currently raising money to purchase house next door
- \$ 40.000 is the goal and currently we have \$20.000
- Maybe help by Community Foundation for Brevard
- If money is not raised chance to purchase is gone and school will lose (\$5000)

TODDLER PROGRAM

- Only open for staff as they need to bring their children to school
- Next school year current families will have a toddler program available - might not be able to be opened up outside the school family
- This building needed extra room to have a space for the toddlers

HIGHLAND HOUSE

- Reno/ additions to create more space
- If NI enrollment stays constant school can take in 5-6 more students (24 kids in total) only 14 at a time in a room are allowed.
- Reno would create a new room (current backyard with table)
- Modular unit where pollinator garden is could be the toddler room
- 3 more rooms are needed and a rec. space
- Second floor is not supported
- What if the house is sold, but something else needs to be available to fit the school

FOOSANER

- Would be ideal, but it can not be afforded
- The entire Foosaner will leave 2021
- Museum and Dome: \$900.000?
- Garden is not available

1861 HIGHLAND

- Would accommodate a facility that could be open to the public in addition to be used by our kids
- The financial burden is substantial and the school doesn't know, if it can handle this purchase especially as there are other growing challenges that need to be addressed and the idea of holding another mortgage is scary
- If the school doesn't get the building the school can still operate
- Even if we get next door we can not accommodate all needs for US
- School needs mixed use or commercial and all codes need to be met
- Space can not be used after May 2019

OLD HIGHSCHOOL AT THE END OF HIGHLAND

- Asbestos infested property
- Might be a grant for an issue as such, but it releases city of the liability for anything that can happen and school would be liable

CHURCH

- US has been entirely accommodated by the church
- \$400 a month
- Trade off: can't be at the church at certain times
- Mornings there are some homeless people
- Older ppl from church aren't always happy about the kids
- Demands from church:
 - Raise rent to 750/ month
 - No cotter hall
 - Verdi school to use upstairs class rooms (electrician need, concrete stairs, AC needs) approx. costs \$25000.
 - 10 classrooms can be used
- Architect: Code restrictions - elevator needs to be buildt (\$50,000-\$100,000 expense)
- Re-negotiating with church to keep the downstairs rooms for a long term contract

FUNDRAISER

- Need to be organized at the beginning of the year, more foresight and purpose is needed
- If we pursue the purchase of Foosaner we need to start the process of raising funds now

MODULAR UNITS

- This idea has been researched. If we get next door we need to additionally purchase modular units which adds an additional costs.
- Needs to be 25 feet away from main structure

VOTE

- Document will be send to parents to vote to decide on way forward for facility
- Will get some quotes from contractors

ASBESTOS

- Siding tiles could have asbestos, so if they are touched the asbestos gets released, so it can not be disturbed for Reno

YOGA GARDEN

- Not an option anymore for the school to be used

- The school has outgrown the space

PHILOSOPHY

- New green space needs to be found to keep the agricultural part alive

RALPHS & STORE NEXT DOOR at HIGHLAND for SALE

- 8000 square feet

FINAL PRESENTATION

- at church and Highland house
- Start at 3.30 pm
- Look out for e-mail
- Last day of school is June 6th