

The Exploration Academy

Site Council Meeting

MARCH 16, 2015

MINUTES

- CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
- Attending were;
 - Chad Welty
 - Sheila Stenseth
 - Pheng Lee
 - Paul Driftmier
 - Andrea Vogel
 - Alexa Butzbaugh
 - Taylor Jackson
 - Cathy Driftmier
- Absent;
 - None
- Guests Attending were;
 - Dawn Van Hook
 - Steve Heuer
 - Mona Cassis

- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BRIEF AGENDA ITEMS

- Introductions all around to welcome guests
- A motion to induct Dawn Van Hook to the Site Council was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
- A motion to name Dawn Van Hook to the position of Treasurer of the Site Council was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Dawn's email address to be added to all lists.
 - dvanhook@aol.com

- A motion to induct Steve Heuer to the Site Council was made, seconded and unanimously approved.
 - Steve's email address to be added to all lists.
 - heuerpac@yahoo.com
- The Minutes of the February, 2015 Meeting were unanimously approved.
- The next meeting of the Site Council was scheduled for April 15th at 6:30 PM
- THE EXPLORATION ACADEMY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
 - Enrollment Update
 - Pheng Lee reports that EA has 78 students presently enrolled and two possible candidate applications in process.
 - PL reports that the lottery was held March 20th
 - Ten letters were sent to candidates
 - Thirteen candidates are on the waiting list
 - One of those was a family that arrived to help with and observe the lottery. We appreciate their kind reaction to being drawn last.
 - "A couple more" VAHS students have expressed an interest and can attend if and when positions open - which they will.
 - PL updated the Council regarding the soon to be implemented VAHS Block Schedule, the "A+" element, and the impact of those on EA students' ability to seek support from teachers, on schedules, and on advisory time.
 - PL plans a meeting with Pam to hash-out the details and implications of A+.
 - There was a wide ranging discussion of advisory goals, club participation, crossover between VAHS and EA students. The consensus among Site Council members is to advocate a pilot program for a quarter to assess use of A+ time and, as Steve Heuer put it, to clarify all the details.
 - Possible benefits of A+ crossover is to introduce the desired EA message to a wider population of students, and it presents an opportunity to distinguish the VAHS students who really want to experience EA.

- Other topics included;
 - The Budget - Alexa opened a discussion of FTE allocation, the growth in our budget (PL cites 0.2%) and the expected requirement of Pam's that we provide itemized lists of dollars needed by EA.
 - PL plans a meeting with Pam in this regard.
 - Savings, management and legitimate usage of funds raised.
 - 21 Fund Account has been designated for funds raised for EA
 - Balance carries over year-over-year
 - Sheila reports that discussions of remodeling are already well underway and it's important not to forget about the goals we set last year in that regard.
- ADDITIONAL REPORTS
 - CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION
 - No discussion
 - FUNDRAISING AND GRANT WRITING (Paul Reporting)
 - Members of the committee
 - Andrea Vogel
 - Mona Cassis
 - Amy Almond
 - Laurie Everitt
 - Tom Eudaly
 - Lori Demeuse
 - Lynn Fahey

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- BRATFEST FUNDRAISER

- Cathy Driftmier, while not on the committee has arranged for EA to field a team at the 2015 BratFest.
 - We registered late and there was little flexibility in assignments
 - Five volunteers have signed up (list?) and three more have expressed an interest but have yet to sign up.
- Next year, we will be in the first round, since we are established.

- CULVERS FUNDRAISER

- Andy V. reports that the CULVERS "EA Night" will be March 25th.
 - Hours are 3:00 to 5:00
 - A contract is required. That contract was passed to Committee Chair Paul Driftmier to be completed, signed and returned to Culver's.
 - Three to five volunteers are needed. Paul volunteered his family. Chad and Andy also volunteered.
 - It is hoped that students will do most of the work.
 - Marketing is key.
 - We can have tray liners printed with the EA logo, etc. which would be put on trays in the days prior to the event.
 - Donation collection tins can also be put out with our logo on the night of the event.
 - There were some reservations voiced about direct solicitation.
 - Taylor plans to make Culver's a field trip.

- FARMERS' MARKET FUNDRAISER

- A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to move the Farmers' Market plan out of the Fundraising Committee's domain and form a committee for the express purpose of integrating the plan more directly into EA in a larger sense.
 - Taylor will play an integral part in this committee and will speak with Wendy (Last Name?)

- EPIC DAY OF GAMING FUNDRAISER

- The date will be May 16, 2015
- One goal, beyond fundraising, is a strong academic/project component for students involved.
- A meeting is being arranged between members of the VAHS IT staff, Paul Driftmier, and Paul Driftmier, Jr. For later in March to discuss logistics and needs.
- Lynn Fahey has said she needs a month to organize the "Vendor Fair"
- Spectator/guest Andrew Vogel expressed a strong interest in participating on the student team for this event. He also suggested a second gaming option, in addition to MineCraft, that would enhance the experience for players and lead to greater fundraising. Further, he wants us to consider Mr. Stremlow's room as a possible venue.
- The propriety of using the word "Epic" in the name of this fundraiser is under review.

- OTHER FUNDRAISER IDEAS

- Target Red Card - AV gave Target's people Chad's name to contact.
- Orange Leaf - Andy has opened a channel with them and will pursue it next.
- iCombat
 - Andy and Paul are excited about the willingness of the iCombat staff to accommodate EA's needs. Both have visited the Fitchburg location.
 - There was strong dissent from guest Mona Cassis who feels such an event would make it appear that EA promotes violence.
 - The consensus is that with so many other choices there's no need to quash Mona's dissent.

- MADISON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

- Paul will research grant opportunities with MCF via their website and will reach out to friend-of-EA, Debbie Biddle, for any advice or contacts she can recommend, as she is expected to take a position at the Foundation.
 - debbiddle@me.com

- MARKETING COMMITTEE (Andrea reporting)
 - Andy suggests that the functions of the Marketing Committee are so closely related to the Fundraising and Grant-writing Committee that the reports can be combined. All agree to combine the two at future meetings of the Site Council.
 - For the benefit of the guests, Open Enrollment as it relates to EA admissions and marketing was revisited.
- BUDGET DISCUSSION
 - We worked on The List for Pam. Items named included
 - Licenses
 - ALEKS
 - Project Foundry
 - Achieve 3000
 - Substitutes
 - Field Trips
 - Bussing
 - WISN Membership
 - Science Materials
 - Chad laid out his vision for a "Science Center."
 - Alexa noted that, for science and technology expenditures, the Council should be going directly to Dr. Gorrell and/or the VASD.
 - Compass - Literacy consultant
 - Sheila pointed out that VAHS is using the EA license.
 - Alexa expressed a desire that we be "**planful**" and consider the negotiations in a strategic way, looking toward the future as we consider the \$100,000 that has not yet been allocated.
 - What does Pheng Lee need from the EA Site Council in order to garner a great budget?
 - We must finalize our list by the end of the budget planning period.

- CLOSING REMARKS
 - There were no closing remarks other than a sincere thank you to all guests and audience as well as new Site Council members for their participation, enthusiasm and commitment.
 - We're looking forward to a great Culver's fundraiser in just a week or so.
- THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30