**Voorhees High School**

**PTSO MEETING Minutes 12/11/17**

**Meeting began at 7:05pm. Ended 8:10 pm**

In attendance: Jen Desch, Kim Garrison, Anya Muhlhauser, John Simpson, Mary Raefski, Claudia Cantelmi, Tina Miller, Anna Sollaccio

With so few members in attendance, no significant decisions were made. Topics discussed included:

**1. Project Graduation**

**Funplex vs another venue**

Funplex about was about $80 total last year per student all on. However, with the higher venue price this year of $65, plus chaperones, busses, t-shirts, bus driver tips — and the lack of fundraising thus far — the entire concept needs to be revisited and a decision made as the venue is holding the date and needs an answer and deposit.

Anya will look into find another venue. Mr. Simpson finding out from North if they ran into same problem with raised fees.

We will have School Resource Officers to be here during check in.

It is looking more and more likely that students have to pay part or all of the costs. We need to decide how do we collect payments this year now before make commitment and NON-REFUNDABLE deposits.

If this happens we will need to send Senior Parent a letter explaining that we will be charging and need an RSVP and check by a date TBD. Parents will be able to see Mr. Simpson in confidence if this poses a financial hardship. If it turns out that the PTSO can pay for all or part as time comes closer, the PTSO will refund all or part of payment. Mr. Simpson will approve a letter before it goes out.

**2. Fundraising**

Open to Ideas, some suggestions included:

• Decorate your parking spot. We need to research the paint. Needs to be water based. How much to charge? Designs need to be pre-approved by admin and will be repercussions for deviations. Need a chair for this. A decision needs to be made on how to handle the parallel spots at the end of the lot and they are not assigned to a specific student, they pull all the way up into empty spots to avoid needing to parallel park.

• Dine Italian – not scheduled for this year

• ShopWithScript.com account for about 200 different vendors and retailers. Caryn will look into it. Anya will contact her for more information and see if she is willing to chair/coordinate.

• Tricky Tray – Anne Marie participated in one in 2013 that generated about $10K. A lot of work but a good fundraiser. Table idea for next year.

• Rummage Sale – Anne Marie would be willing to help, has a lot of expertise with this. Table idea for next year.

Raffle – need license, put on back burner see how food truck works out.

**Food Truck Fundraiser**

Kim G will be liaison. Need a Chair. Initial outlay of cash would be for marketing company $2,500 who organizes permits, vendors, etc. Need a location. Memorial Park? Christie Hoffman? Ortt Farm? Groshowitz? Union Forge Park?

About 14 food trucks. Kim G has contact information for marketing company and will reach out over break for more information.

How long does it take to plan? Jen’s friend Kim Taylor will get her some information.

We would need to decide where to hold it, then use the marketing company.

Sold wristbands in advance to cover entry fee/music festival. Then pay as you go with each food truck. Maybe ask Mr. Reynolds for students to provide entertainment.

**3. Emily Fundraising Bake Sale**

School not holding any fundraiser so as not to send a precedent. Jen was contacted on FB to see if hold a bake sale to raise money to give to family. Claudia will Chair. Anya will give her names of volunteer bakers. Also use Sign Up Genius.

Mr Simpson will check with a family in the area that makes donations for children that are sick.

PTSO will match any funds raised by the bake sale, capped at $250. If we have more money we can also make another donation at a later time.

**4. License Renewal**

Need new license, will be good for 2 years.

**5. Teacher Grants/Membership**

One suggestion was to sponsor something along the lines of “Teacher Mini-Grants” that would cover expenses that typically fall outside of the budget like senior class projects such as Senior Weddings or the Nashville trip for the student television network national conference in March.

Will consider applications up to $500 but not guaranteed, like to help cover student with financial hardship for a field trip, etc.

PTSO would vote and consult with Mr. Simpson.

Any project funded should not in conflict with Ed Foundation.

• Another suggestion was if teachers joined PTSO, half of their membership dues would be deposited into a separate “account” and used as a pool of funding for teacher needs.

Wish List that Parents can fulfill – need a chair. Anya will make a list of open chairs and send to group.

• A previous suggestion where VHS can try to mimic Student of the Month to include Teacher of the Month where students vote for a teacher each month or per quarter. Kids can vote online with a Google form. Mr. Simpson can send a link to each class, Kristin will create the document for distribution. The Administrations decided against this idea. Instead, doing Teacher Profiles with Mr. Brandt in the program Voorhees Now to recognize teachers. Working on a way for parents and students to acknowledge a teacher, working on the process for it.

Student of the Month will start soon, Mr. S will contact teachers to nominate students

**6. Officer Positions** were described by Jen, who explained why positions need to be filled and presented to the Board of Education.

Currently we are in need of a Vice President. With a school this size we need more volunteers to help chair and fill committees.

Will need Sec next year and president

**3. Committee Chairs**

**Dine Italian** – was cancelled this year, but still open to holding it later on the night of a home wrestling or basketball game, or we can replace it with something else. Raised about $4k last year, first year was so low usually about $6k. Typically was used as seed money for the raffle prizes and expenses.

**Raffle** – Open, also need to discuss prizes for this year.

**Teacher Appreciation** – Julie Snyder

**Senior Scholarships** – Open, looking for someone who can solicit from local businesses to increase the scholarship amounts.

**Media/Advertising** – Open, were a few members who listed they were interested on the membership form. If you are interested, please attend our next meeting so that we can discuss this.

**Project Graduation** – Open

**School Board Liason** – Open, were a few members who listed they were interested on the membership form. If you are interested, please attend our next meeting so that we can discuss this.

**Graduation Lawn Signs for Seniors** – Kim and Anya.

**4. Role of the PTSO:** Past – Future - Present

The PTSO Sponsors: Student of the Month, Staff Appreciation Breakfast, Senior Scholarships, Project Graduation.

The PTSO would like students to become more involved. We discussed the possibility of inviting class presidents to attend PTSO meetings. We need something to involve the students, maybe be part of prom planning or something.

The PTSO also would like to be able to do more for the teachers and also would like for them to become more involved in the PTSO.

• Amazon – ask Maren to send the link information on its own now before holidays. Jen and Anya will make a flyer that can be posted at wrestling matches. Add it to the township board for community at large. Anne Marie and Claudia and Mary R volunteered to help distribute to various FB pages.

Senior Scholarships – do we want to increase the amount?

**5. Treasurers’ Report**

Kim will have a detailed accounting and budget for the next meeting.

**6. Approval of budget**

Kim will have a detailed accounting and budget for the next meeting.

**7. Communication**

Web page needs to be administered from the school. Mr. Simpson updated the VHS PTSO website link for us.

**8. Thank You & Any Questions**

Mary R asked about selling mattresses. Set up the ad and the company sets up event and get $ back.

Mr. Simpson will check if doing Mr. Voorhees again, maybe we can do a Voorhees Got Talent.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Next meeting Jan 8 in room 135.