GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Meeting Minutes

Virginia-Highland Elementary School

Date: 8/21/2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:00

Location: LiveStream

I. Call to Order 6:01

II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent
Principal	Terry Harness	P
Parent/Guardian	Rebecca Cagle	P
Parent/Guardian	Ryan Valduga	P
Instructional Staff	Young Rhee	P
Instructional Staff	Andrique Norwood	P
Community Member	Melissa Clark	P

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

a. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by: M Clark , Seconded by: A. Norwood
Members Approving: Unanimous
Members Opposing: no
Members Abstaining: no

b. b. Approval of Previous Minutes Motion made by: R. Valduga , Seconded by: Y. Rhee
Members Approving: Unanimous
Members Opposing: no
Members Abstaining: no

c. Action Item 1: Strategic Plan Performance Indicators

i. Vision Casting

What are the things we want to accomplish in next few years? Spark and MES came together to form VHE, but VHE should have its own identity. Over course of school opening, T. Harness discussed this issue with parents, PTO central office, etc.

What did we hear: (1) embracing community and diversity; (2) robust , integrated STEAM curriculum; (3) process for students to think through problems across all content; (4) smaller class sizes and differentiated learning; (5) growing all students whether on, below or above grade level

T. Harness draft of Vision Statement: Our vision is to cultivate an authentic relevant learning environment through an investigative approach, empowering all students to empathize, problem solve, discover and innovate collaboratively.

T. Harness draft of Mission Statement: Our mission is to nurture and empower our diverse student population while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and a deep understanding of others through STEAM education, ensuring that every student feels valued and supported.

GoTeam will continue to work on vision and mission statements for VHE over time. Including brainstorming innovative ways to reach families who may not read newsletter (ie: TikTok)

ii. Milestones Data

Achievement Scores: VHE did very well in reading achievement. We don't have math scores yet from the state. Even though VHE was in year 1, we did great compared to schools with similar or even lower challenge indexes. 18% of students in yellow/red categories—so there is room to improve on this to get all students to proficient or above. 4th grade specifically is a very high performing group.

Growth Scores: VHE is in top 10 schools for growth scores, but there is more work to do here to get all students to proficient, as 24% kids were in red and yellow categories. VHE will continue to evaluate how to reach and support these kids. Growth is huge piece of puzzle because it measure where we started to where we've come over year.

iii. MAP Data

VHE kids not performing as well on MAP as they do on milestones—why is this? Something to continue to look into and consider.

iv. Continuous Improvement Plan

Continuous Improvement Plan regarding Milestones: We want to increase the number of full academic year students scoring proficient or above in literacy by 5% (up to 87% in green).

Math percentages still to come and then we will establish that goal.

Other Improvement Goals:
*90% joining PTO and getting newsletter
*Ensure 94% of kids have 6 or fewer absences in academic year. Reminder how chronic tardies lead to missing important SEL and phonics instructional time.
*Parent academy programming—families participating in supporting literacy development and numeracy activities. Help parents be in know and understand math processes, etc.

Smart Goal #1: Increase cohesion in instructional approaches and curriculum both horizontally and vertically.
Smart Goal #2: Increase overall attendance rates in all grade levels from our baseline from 23/24 school year.
Smart Goal #3: Implement MTSS using research-based interventions to move students toward on-grade level performance.
Smart Goal #4: Increase family engagement across all grade levels to actively participate in their child's literacy and numeracy development.

We will continue to discuss priorities and strategies to achieve these smart goals.

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IV. Discussion Items

a. Discussion Item 1: Leveling Impacts – VHE Students enrolled

Projected number of students was 559, actual is 628 (plus 20 pre-k, so 648 students actually in building)

ii. What is leveling?

1. Increased budget
2. Teacher placement at VHE

-District funds $5334/student, so VHE should receive $357, 378 in additional funds – this will be added as money to budget or with teacher(s) provided.

-What grades are impacted the most? 1st, 4th and 5th. Will likely add a 1st grade homeroom class. For 4th and 5th, it's trickier because of departmentalization. Can either look into a teacher for each grade level who is comfortable teaching all content areas OR look into a teacher who can do both 4th/5th grade STEM and one who can do both 4th/5th grade Humanities

-Are student supports impacted? (IEP, ESOL, gifted, specials, etc .) – may need an extra gifted teacher, para, or support for specials like PE

-Kids will react to levelling the way parents do

b. Discussion Item 2: PTO Fundraising

i. Academic Supports

Parents can support PTO to ensure academic supports, and the extensive list of things PTO does to allow school programming to flourish.

ii. Everybody's Playground

This is a long-term plan. As new school particularly, can't just buy outright. Playground improvements will have to occur in phases over years. Hope that this can be funded by grants and corporate sponsors--- if parents work for corporate employer who may be interested in sponsoring, please reach out.

V. Information Items

a. Principal's Report – covered already

b. Cluster Advisory Team Report

VI. Announcements

a. School Announcements/Save the Dates

*Back to School Night: 8/22 at 5:30

*Principal Coffee Talk 8/22 via Zoom at 8:00 am

*VHCA education committee hosting a Community Conversation with new APS Superintendent Dr. Johnson at VHE on 8/27 at 6 pm in Cafeteria

b. PTO Announcements

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment 7:19

Motion made by: R. Cagle, Seconded by:

Members Approving:

Members Opposing:

Members Abstaining:

Motion