



September 17, 2025 Meeting

Call to Order @7:02pm

Welcome and Intro

Introduce the PTO Board:

Amanda Hoy, President
Melinda Julian, Vice President
Janet Moody, Secretary
Randa Rydzy, Treasurer

Sam Marx, Membership
Ashley Finlayson, Fundraising
Megan Britton, Communications
Korine Szot, Spirit Wear

PTO Yearly Goals

- Foster family relationships in the school community through volunteer opportunities and free events throughout the year
- Provide grants for creative and education classroom and schoolwide projects
- Support the school in planning and carrying out the new K-5 playground
- Encourage more parents and guardians to get involved so the PTO remains strong into the future

Membership Report: Currently 150 paid families and 32 staff members

Treasurer Report: The Board increased the teacher back to school gifts from \$250 to \$400 and changed the end of the year pre k balloons to the 5th grade decorations, as per the schools request.

The Cheddar Up site increased price from \$120 to \$180 per year

PTO email increased from \$26 a month to \$312 for the year

All was voted in person with 23 yes in favor of all increases being approved

Opening Balance	\$31,772.03
Income	\$1,411.36
Expenses	-\$5,233.09
Ending Balance	\$27,950.30

- Fund Requests: Kindergarten bus for field trip

Fundraising Report

- Fundraisers: Dine To Donate-
10/15 Turf Surf & Earth
11/18 Shake Shack
1/20 Honeygrow
Gertrude Hawk to go out mid-October and due back around 11/3

- Spirit Wear: Total sold since August: \$3,465
 - Pre K popsicles- \$474
 - Ice Cream Social- \$1,234
 - VDV BTSN- \$988
 - General- \$769
 - We now also have stickers and bags
- **Old Business**
- Camp SMS, Teacher Welcome Back Hydration Station, PS Popsicle & Ice Cream Social Recaps: All events were successful. PTO donated sunglasses and pencil cases for Camp SMS. Teacher Hydration Station PTO set up reusable cups with drinks and LMNT packets. PS popsicles and Ice Cream Social was busy and we had enough product

Ongoing Business

- SMS Diversity Event: 10/9 from 5:30-8:00
 - Students must come with their families and they are asked to bring a dish to share. SMS is taking this event on with help from the PTO.
- Trunk or Treat: 10/25 from 4:00-4:30 sensory friendly, 4:30-6:00 open
 - Kate will help us make new candy monsters for the school candy donations
 - Current budget is \$800
Vote to raise the budget to \$1,000 to cover cost of candy
All in favor: 23 yes in person
Thinking about asking for sponsors from businesses in the community. This can also help cover cost of candy
- Holiday Shop: 12/6 9:00-9:30 sensory friendly, 9:30-12 open
12/5 will be the set up

Updates from the Schools & School Organizations

- VDV:
 - Thank you to the PTO for the wonderful year start programs with the Ice Cream Social and Preschool Peek and Popsicles. Both events had great turnouts and it was so wonderful to see so many of our VDV families come participate! Ice Cream Social had one of our best turnouts yet!
 - Thank you to the PTO for always promoting such positive vibes within our school community. Especially at VDV Back to School Night and with the welcome back gift to staff. You are always stepping up and there for our families and school and we are so grateful!
 - Students in Grades 1-5 have just about completed their iReady diagnostics. Kindergarten begins their diagnostics next Wednesday.

-We had our first school wide read aloud this year that talked all about possibilities and the hopes for making the best of life in positive ways. The book Maybe? was read by Ms. Frevert and Mrs. Streko and recommended by Mrs. Kessler.

-We had our first Wellness Wednesday today on Mind and Body Working Together to help support healthy and safe choices to start the school year!

-Back to School Night was a great success! Thank you to all the families that attended and to all the staff that helped prepare for such a successful evening. Your children continue to enjoy reading the positive messages left for them in each wing!

-We had students practice our school wide area expectations of EAT and PLAY as a reminder of the appropriate ways to behave and show safe, respectful and responsible during lunch and recess. This year, in order to support our positive behavior intervention and support (PBIS) area expectation teachers were provided lesson plans and slide content to review each area expectation every week during morning meetings. These are ACT, MOVE and FLUSH. These help all students in all grades demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behaviors throughout our building.

-Our first PBIS prize cart of the year will be on Friday, September 26th. Students will be able to purchase physical prizes and will have more opportunities to purchase incentives and activity rewards with their Van Derbucks throughout the year. Grade levels will also continue to use classroom menus to utilize their Van Derbucks within the classroom on a weekly basis. All ideas for other prize options and incentives are always welcome!

-Week of Respect is the first full week in October here at VDV. We are planning various activities to celebrate the week as well as lessons on being an upstander for each grade level.

-Picture Day is Monday, October 13th. Information will be forthcoming.

-The Walking School Bus is up and running once again! Meet the crew every Wednesday by the pickleball courts and join us in walking together to VDV.

-Upcoming Dates:

2nd Year Band morning Rehearsals have started

4th and 5th Grade Chorus morning rehearsals are also about to begin

Our first Star Student of the Month is Sept 30th

Safety Patrol Induction Ceremony for Selected 5th Graders: October 10th at 9:15am

Week of October 20th: Red Ribbon Week

First Assembly of the Year: Lead U Assemblies: Wednesday, October 15th connected to the Week of Respect lessons and goals

Fun with Pumpkins P-2: October 23rd 6:00-7:30pm

October Prize Cart: October 30th

October Achievement Event: Possibly a Visit with Officer Nikki and Marco here at VDV!

Halloween Parade: October 31st 9:15am Start at the Preschool/2nd Grade Entrance,
Weather Permitting

- SMS:
- The SMS school year is off to a great start. All students have entered the building engaged and ready for another great school year
- Currently, SMS is in the idle of the Start with Hello week. Each day has assigned themes to support a welcoming and inclusive environment that we hope to create at SMS.
- Acknowledgement of the upcoming partnership to put on Diversity night on October 9th. Teachers will generate interest by posting the flyer during BTSN.
- When visiting for BTSN or the Diversity night parents are encouraged to stop in and see the auditorium updates. The “facelift” has made a tremendous difference “ in the space.
- The building continues to welcome Mr. Damaschke into his assistant principal role as he has hit the ground running.
- When we met as a grade level we highlighted many similar aspects as VDV with regard to procedural expectations at SMS. We reinforced that each student represents “their best self” whether it be during the day or during diagnostic testing.
- iReady diagnostic testing went well and students truly represented their progress. The starting scores for our building are improved as compared to the 24-25 school year.
- Mr. Loretto was recognized for his contributions last weekend in downtown Somerville with an award in the form of a donation to the music program.
- We encourage everyone to come out and visit SMS at its annual BTSN on 9/18. Doors for the band program will open for a 5:30 start where the rest of the program will begin at 6pm.
- Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG):
Parent led organization that provides guidance and counsel to the district regarding best practices in special education and related services.
 - Meet first Tuesday of every month and meet bi-annually with the school

New Business/Open for Discussion

Close of Meeting @ 8:00pm

Meetings are 3rd Wed of every other month @ 7pm: 11/19, 1/21, 3/18, 5/20