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**Vergennes Union Middle and High School
Commodore Parent Teacher Group**

Meeting Agenda
January 6, 2016
VUHS Library
6:30- 8:00pm

- **Welcome** Carla and Lynne

- **VUHS budget discussion - 15** Neil Kamman

*Neil spoke to the group about the impact that Act 46 is having on creating a budget. To date Stephanie has proposed a Level Program Budget but due to a drop in enrollment, an increase in contractual salary costs and an increase of health care expenses, this budget would increase taxes above the cap allowed by the state. To exceed the cap taxpayers would be penalized by paying two times the amount of what is exceeded. To offer a budget that meets the cap the school would have to cut \$1.2 million dollars. This would be the equivalent of cutting all extracurricular activities (including all sports), Walden and chorus. Joanne is explaining to legislatures the impact that this cap would have on Vergennes in hopes that something can be changed.

*Neil also urged everyone to support unification because there are financial incentives for the schools and for tax payers. Also because it will be required soon or we will have to prove that separate school budgets and services would be better fiscally.

There is concern that the school budget could be voted down along with unification. So Neil proposed that only the question of unification be voted on during town meeting day. This would also buy more time for possible changes by the legislature regarding the Act 46 cap requirements. The school budgets would be held later in the spring.

It was strongly recommended that everyone should email their legislatures about the impacts Act 46 is having on Vergennes middle and high school.

- **Act 46 update - 5** Kristina -

Kristina did not attend.

Neil covered much of what she was expected to share.

- **Trinkets and Treasures Sale Updates - 5** Holly

On Saturday, Jan 9 there will be a drop-off at Kennedy Brothers from 9-11

- **Meeting Minutes from November – Review - 5** Kira

- **Administrative Update - 10** Jay / Stephanie

*Stephanie reported that the present school sign is being worked on. It has been scraped and painted and will get plexiglass added.

*Stephanie shared that seniors lobbied for and will be granted privileges of an open campus during blocks 4,5,6 for the second semester. She asked the group for ideas about communicating this to the community. Ideas included a blurb on front page forum, an article in the Addison Independent and some way to let local businesses know.

- **Treasurer Report - 10** Sue

*Holly suggested a deadline regarding the group's offer of \$5000 for a new school sign. Carla offered June.

- **Update on recent enrichment grants** Lou/Tania

No new grants, though there was mention of funding a 7th grade chili cook off.

Stephanie expressed concern about folks coming to the group to get things funded that should be in the school budget or that may be not educational. Carla assured her that the group uses its mission statement to guide funding. Also that Jay or Stephanie attend meetings and lend their guidance as well.

- **Continued discussion around goals for the SY 15/16** All

*Lynn and Carla will look at the three goals that we have proposed to tackle and send out an email encouraging folks to sign up for a committee:

Workshops for students (and parents)

Staff Appreciation lunch and other recognitions

Continue and expand enrichment grants

*Lynn thought that the group could support the staff in some way in the next couple weeks, maybe offer some food. She and Carla plan to do something to show appreciation.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016 from 6:30-8:00pm

The VUHS CPTG Mission Statement: To encourage and support academic achievement through the promotion of family involvement in the school, enrichment programs, and communications between families/parents, teachers, administrators, and community members.