

Minutes for EHS PTO Meeting – Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Attending: Chrissy Harrison, Eleni Glerum, Cheryl Dulas, Lisa Boss, Kari Mawn, Kathy Nelsen, Erica Allenburg, Kathryn Koessel, Judy Brenner, Pryia Jain, Betsy Pfeiffer, Andy Beaton, Angella McGarvey

November 7, 2018 meeting minutes approved.

Edina Ed Fund's Cake Off fundraiser event is February 1, 2019. Representing the Ed Fund, Stephanie Francis-Jones invited EHS PTO to attend and invite others.

- There are two times—7:30am, a shorter more casual event, and 10:00am—both at St. Pats. The event is free. Cakes are available for silent auction, comments by John Schulz, presenters who have received Ed Fund grants and a showcase of past grants.
- They would like 2 to 3 table captains and at least 20 to 30 people from the high school. We discussed the growing importance of the Ed Fund, especially as state funding for public schools continue to grow at a much slower pace than inflation. If the Ed Fund could raise more funds, they could help EPS reduce the amount of annual budget cuts. (See Erica's and Andy's comments.)

President Update –

- Volunteers invited to join parent and student Mosaic group to make sandwiches for the homeless on Monday, December 10 at 6:30pm in the Commons.
- The last monthly Coffee with the Principal was successful with a cross section of parents attending.

Treasurer Report – On behalf of Yong Chen, Chrissy said that there was no significant change.

- A few new members drift in each month bringing total PTO membership to approximately 750 members, ahead of the conservative budget of 600. With each new member, the PTO increases its budget. The PTO net income is approximately \$30,500.

School Board Update – Erica Allenburg gave updates on the school board estimates for budget cuts next year, the formation of a legislative action committee and upcoming meetings.

- Although the school board needs to hear from the state, the board's conservatively estimates that EPS will receive a one percent increase from the state which means significant budget cuts again. Elementary schools and their principals are coming up with new ideas of how to cut expenses and looking at the big picture. The increasing state funding gap is having a significant impact on EPS and other districts across the state.
- The School Board is forming a nonpartisan Legislative Action Committee to advocate the state legislature. Their agenda will include advocating for fully funded school districts, fully funded special education and fund state mandates. If interested in participating in this group, look on the EHS School Board website for more information.
- The next regular School Board Meeting is December 19. In addition, a meeting on Gifted and Talented at the middle and upper school and a meeting on Edina demographics will be held in December.

Principal Update – Andy Beaton continued the discussion on budget cuts.

- Everything is on the table for reductions. Both the current ninth grade class and the incoming class are smaller than the senior class. The goal is to keep an average of 30.9 students per class on a department basis. Erica and Andy discussed the need for funding from the Ed Fund. While they cannot hire teachers from Ed Fund resources, they can fund peripheral needs such as paras, etc. In addition, they both discussed why enrollment in the district is declining. The new demographic study should shed light on reasons ranging from changes in student enrollment policies to the economy.
- Andy also mentioned how EPS is looking at ways to accelerate students through the curriculum. The middle schools are exploring ways to accelerate some students through science, such as completing two years in one or two years in three. This could open the students up for more science AP classes in the high school. At the high

school, second semester pre-AP 10 will imbed an honors program in the required tenth grade class. If students indicate proficiency above and beyond the normal level, they will have an honors designation. After a number of questions and comments, Andy suggested this was a creative solution to creating an honors type level of tenth grade English.

Mini-Grants – Betsy Pfeiffer presented three mini-grants.

1. The French Cinema class needed a \$250 special cord to use its DVD player, and the district did not have a suitable cord. Comments included concern that the district couldn't provide or pay for a cord. **APPROVED \$250**

2. Steven Cullison, the AP Econ teacher, asked for \$265 to purchase a quiz competition buzz system that can be used for the quiz bowl contestants in all AP Econ classes. **APPROVED \$265**

3. Revisited the \$879 request for locks for the Orchestra lockers. These locks would have combinations, but also master keys for the teacher to access locker in case of illness, lost combination etc. **APPROVED for 16 locks for teacher**, remainder of lock requests tabled.

4. Mosaic asked for \$150 for funds to make sandwiches for the homeless. The group supported the request but discussed whether it was appropriate for mini-grants. The decision was to put the request towards the PTO discretionary funds so that PTO exec committee can approve without full PTO consent. **PTO will provide \$150 of funds through discretionary fund.**

Other updates:

“Not Me” – Lisa Boss

- Scheduled for April 1 (girls) and April 8 (boys) at EHS.
- Sign up will be in February first targeting senior and junior families.
- Learned from last year making the boys session shorter than the girls.

Volunteers – Pryia Jain

- Pre-AP9 English event needs volunteers for “Book Tasting” on Dec 18 for setup and decorations and helping at event on Dec 19 and 20.