

EDINA HIGH SCHOOL PTO
October 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Catherine Groat, Bruce Locklear, Katie Peterson, Gwen Budd, Sigrid Redpath, Vivien Talghader, Michele Gatien, Sarah Hromada, Lenny Wallen-Friedman, Heidi Burch, Kim Boisvert

The September 9, 2014 minutes were approved as written.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Hospitality for the October parent/teacher conferences was much appreciated.
- The EHS student involved in the parking lot marijuana / gun incident faces expulsion or voluntary withdrawal per school policy. A debrief has been done of the situation.
- There is a lot of excitement about May Term. Rotary and Chamber of Commerce have been approached about providing business shadowing / internship experiences under a program termed "10 for 50" (10 businesses for 50 students). Surveys are being conducted to assess student interest in different types of businesses / opportunities.
- Teacher fatigue is an issue as teachers are taking on more tasks. Elimination of non-essential tasks is being assessed.
- Parent use of Sign-Up Genius to sign up for November teacher conference slots is being considered.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

- The School Board has tasked the Calendar Committee with setting the 2015-16 school year calendar with a pre-Labor Day start. Winter break duration, Thanksgiving break duration, and data review / staff days are among the items still to be set.
- Facilities Task Force report was provided to the School Board. Expenditures are estimated in the \$110-\$120M range. Design emphasis will be directed towards moving 9th graders to the high school and school security.
- An additional \$25M for an activity/athletic center is being considered.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- EHS PTO participation in the Homecoming parade went well. Suggestions for next year are to purchase more, smaller candy, recruit more members to walk in the parade, including students, and eliminate a vehicle.
- PLC (Parent Leadership Council) meetings are providing an effective way for EHS PTO to collaborate with other EPS PTOs.
- Three mini-grants were approved. First was for \$260 for Bluetooth devices for Spanish classes. Second was for \$210 for soccer club equipment (portable goals, balls, pennies). Third was for \$2187 for registration for PLC (Professional Learning Communities) training for three teachers. Right now about 50% of the EHS teachers have gone through training. An additional nine teachers are slated to go for training this year but paid through other means.
- Collaborative Wednesdays speaker series is being established. Michele has engaged a Wells Fargo bank specialist to speak at all three time slots on money management and the perils of credit card use.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

- There are currently 786 members with an additional 8 that are pending. 97 members made donations which raised an additional ~\$3k. Those donors will receive an electronic thank you.
- It was decided to keep membership cost at \$35 for the next few years.

VOLUNTEER REPORT:

- Additional volunteer recruitment for Collaborative Wednesdays is needed.

HOSPITALITY:

- Dinner for the October conferences was fried chicken, hot German potato salad, pies, brownies, salad, and rolls. On an hourly basis PTO volunteers rotated in to help serve.
- A meal will be provided on Thursday, Nov 20 during conferences. The menu has not been set yet.
- A decision was made to eliminate a December breakfast from the PTO sponsored events.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS:

- The PTO newsletter will go out quarterly. Newsletter name is still to be set. The first newsletter will include a message from the President, announcement regarding directory distribution, membership update, volunteer opportunities, school board representative introduction, and mini grant awards to date.

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

- The Directory is in production. A confirmation email will be sent to members who approved their email be listed in the directory. Our target is to print and distribute the directory by the end of October.

SITE COUNCIL UPDATE:

- Survey results from last year's senior class are being compiled. There were over 600 responses, many with detailed comments. One standout theme already identified is a need for better writing / language instruction.

OPEN ACTION ITEMS:

- Parent forum dates are still TBD. Katie Peterson and Patty O'Neil will set the date for the college prep forum. PTO will help with logistics and documentation support.
- Wellness / Dilly Bar Friday substitute event has been tabled for now.
- District Media and Technology Services is looking for a few parents to serve in an advisory capacity, providing feedback on the effectiveness of various technology tools geared for parents. Catherine will ask Steve Buettner to provide a written description of the role the parents will play and a call for volunteers may be put out in the newsletter.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 11/11/14, 9-10:30am, Conference Room A.

Submitted by Vivien Talghader, PTO President-elect