

EHS PTO MEETING, November 5, 2015

Attendees: Vivien Talghader, Leslie Vaillancourt, Catherine Groat, Kim Sabow, Melissa Seeley, Sigrid Redpath, Suzanne Klein, Leslie Nicholson, Jenn Carter, Michele Gatien, Heidi Burch, Janet Ha, Sarah Hromada, Leny Wallen-Friedman

Minutes from September 29th PTO meeting were approved.

“Edina Give-n-Go”

Abby Hafner attended the meeting and explained how the organization helps Edina students from economically disadvantaged homes. Currently, 9% of EPS students are on free and reduced lunches.

Principal's Report:

Bruce Locklear was out of town for a meeting. Jenn Carter presented the Principal's report. Collab time is now held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 50 minutes each day. Forums are frequently held on these days, however, students are unhappy with so many forums as they can't really use collab time as it was originally intended. Therefore, fewer forums will be scheduled and held sporadically instead of weekly. The ACT test will be given in the spring to all juniors. It is not clear how the State of MN will handle this test in the future. The PLAN test will be discontinued as of this year. The ASPIRE is being evaluated as a potential replacement test.

School Board Update:

Results of election will be accepted by school board on Monday, November 9th. Calendar discussion will be on the agenda. There was a 50/50 split on Student Council for ending the semester by Christmas. The School Board is visiting an Omaha high school similar to Edina to discuss various issues and collaborate on solutions and new ideas.

Membership:

Forty new members, five hundred twenty three (523) total to date. Need an updated list for directories.

Treasurer's Report:

\$20,999 current total

\$ 2,553 donations from 69 people

It is suggested that the PTO table be moved to the front lobby for 2016 GCD to boost our membership drive.

MN taxes will be filed by the end of the year with Ellingson & Ellingson.

Directory:

Directories will be ready to distribute shortly. Volunteers will be needed.

Forums:

Not a great turnout, but all of the speakers were phenomenal. Four high school seniors attended and discussed how to manage stress and time. Cesley Bergsten (the school nurse), Heidi Mathers (AP World and AP Psychology teacher) and Dr. JoAnn Hannon (Neuropsychologist and guest speaker) also spoke.

Marketing & Communications:

The first PTO newsletter was sent to all EHS families at the end of September. The next newsletter will go out only to PTO member. There is a two-week lead time needed to prepare and format this document. Please send your information to Michele as soon as it is available. The final deadline will be given at the January meeting.

We discussed using webinar and YouTube options to disseminate information to our members. Michele and Janet will let us know if these are viable options.

Hospitality Report:

A meal was served at conferences on October 8th for staff, teachers and custodians. Requesting an RSVP helped with the planning. 104 people were served. There is another meal planned for conferences on November 19th.

Volunteer Needs:

Sarah will coordinate directory distribution volunteer requirements.
Vivien will contact Student Council to coordinate Sadie's Dance volunteer requirements.
Jenn Carter will coordinate Collab time.

Go Green:

Melissa will tour secondary schools on Friday, November 6th with Hennepin County to make sure we are meeting the requirements of the grant allocations. There is some frustration as not all schools are on the same page in terms of procedures. Building & Grounds crew along with teachers need to be educated on how the program works so it flows more smoothly. Sigrid will contact Melissa to better meet Go Green initiatives at hospitality events.

Mini-Grants Report:

\$2000 was requested for three staff member to attend PLC training. This was tabled until next month.

\$544.80 was requested for second set of calculators for EHS Math Dept. It was suggested that these calculators also be available for students during ACT testing for maximum value. Jenn Carter will contact the counseling department to inquire about the viability of this arrangement. A check in/out system should be implemented to ensure security of the calculators. This grant was approved with the stipulation that they are also available for national testing events.

\$180.31 was requested for tympanic thermometer for special needs students. This grant was unanimously approved.

\$150.00 was requested for the EHS Equity team to purchase national flags and hang at EHS to represent our ethnic diversity. This grant was unanimously approved.

Submitted by Kim Sabow –November 28, 2015