

Eden Prairie High School Parent-Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 19, 2016
EPHS Staff Lounge - 9:00am

Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome & Introductions

- President - Esti Ollerman
- Treasurer - Darla Nemec
- Secretary - Lori Longie
- Communications - Laura Jester
- Mini-Grants - Alexa Smith
- Planners - Gaby Schwob
- Staff Appreciation - Heidi Gandrud, Gretchen Harrison
- Student Directory - Alexa Smith
- Resource Center & Website - Michelle Fourre

Meeting Protocols

- Try to be on time
- Follow the agenda
- We are all volunteers. Respect our time together. Don't stress.
- Ask Conn personal questions later

Approval of Minutes of the Preceding Meeting/Agenda of current meeting

- Minutes approved

New Business

- Approve amended 2016-2017 EPHS Board & Committees
 - Amend to Website/Social Media, Michelle Fourre (Approved)
 - Add Christy Schively, Patty Hanson and Gretchen Harrison to Staff Appreciation; Heidi Gandrud will attend the Board Meetings (Approved)
 - Amend Mini Grant program to Grant Program (Approved)
- Approve 2016-2017 EPHS PTO Budget
 - Darla revised the budget from last meeting
 - Proposed budget on left; 2015-16 actuals on right
 - Add Paypal to staff appreciation donations; amount should increase
 - The senior party is self-funding
 - Delete Taste Basket & Donation of \$150 (no more FEPS Taste of EP)
 - Budget approved

ACTION ITEM: Esti will follow up regarding care of South Entrance planters.

- Senior Planning & Financial Aid Night - 9/29/16 in Auditorium
 - This is a CRC event. Do we need PTO involvement? What is our role? At the very least, every event we do, we should have three PTO members as greeters. We are passive in getting volunteers. Maybe we have a calling party to generate list of potential volunteers?
 - Laura volunteered to greet at Senior Planning & Financial Aid Night
 - Do we have PTO storage besides what is in Staff Lounge?

ACTION ITEM: Esti will ask Roxanne if there is an PTO storage area or closet somewhere at EPHS.

- 'What I Wish I Knew About College Planning' - Thursday, 10/6/16
 - Alexa will coordinate the structure of the parent panel
 - Event involves a panel of three parents talking to other parents about their personal experiences regarding college applications – “the things I learned getting my kid to college”
 - Counselors will attend
 - Alexa Smith, Esti Ollerman and Lisa Ross are on the panel
 - Alexa spoke with Counselor Julie Block in the CRC to secure Lisa Ross for the panel
 - Michelle had an idea for a speaker regarding financial planning. We generally steer away from financial aid conversations, but this speaker does so more in general terms, not just financial planning.

ACTION ITEM: Esti will send email regarding “What I wish I knew about college planning” details.

ACTION ITEM: Alexa will follow up with CRC regarding the parent panel; will email list of talking points.

Old & Unfinished Business

- EPHS District 272 PTO Council Update - Designing Pathways update from Jaclyn Swords, EPS Director of Communications
 - If interested in serving on the Phase 2 Input Team; link is below:
 - https://docs.google.com/a/edenpr.k12.mn.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7ns6LVEeDvQQkscp6qN89AGvZY7TkqR-m1uuGfJeDBXh2_Q/viewform

EPHS Updates - Conn McCartan, Principal

- Designing Pathways/EPHS News
 - Enrollment is trending strong at 3,077; this is above the projected 3,000; some late arrivals; freshman = 773; sophomores = 774; juniors = 750; seniors = 780
 - Upcoming events – activity rush week tomorrow during zero hour; will target freshman
 - The conference schedule opens up tonight at 6:00pm
 - Thursday is first CORE session – remind of CORE App. There are five options: learning target, make up work, homework help, enrichment/extension, quiet study. Six other high schools are doing a version of CORE as a result of visiting EPHS.
 - Designing Pathways
 - Capstone project to be introduced as an optional exercise for seniors
 - Flexibility in daily calendar and online offerings may be possible
 - Explore options as to offer five terms (summer term) - kids take four to allow families to take extended time off during the school year - flexibility
 - This is a 10-year plan and won't all happen next year, helpful for people to know that. The vast majority of what we do will look the same.
 - Innovation – doing what we do but better.

Question from Alexa – There is a balance with mini grants. Do we have to do something with that money? Answer is not now but something may emerge with Designing Pathways: flexible furnishing, repurpose area, something building-wide for example. For time being, will wait for the ideal opportunity to arise.

Reports of Committees

- Communications, Laura Jester

- If there is any input on what to communicate or how etc. she is happy to take suggestions. Communications are going out in newsletter, Conn's email, etc.
- If Conn had a list of events where he needs volunteers, PTO could help by setting up a Sign up Genius and sending to list of PTO volunteers.
- There will be a need for chaperones for informal and formal homecoming dances. Need PTO involvement in getting volunteers for events.
- Michelle made first week Sign Up Genius for Math Resource center.
- Create Sign Up Genius for all volunteer opportunities. Each description would have separate Sign Up Genius link.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle will send the PTO Board instructions on accessing PTO emails accounts.

- Eagle Nation News, Sarah Schacht
 - If you have something for Eagle Nation News, talk to Laura Jester for PTO section
 - Due end of month
 - Helpful to have Sign Up Genius link
- Mini Grants, Alexa Smith
 - Changes in Mini Grant program
 - Motion to rename this committee position to "Grants" (Approved)
- Planners, Gaby Schwob
 - Still have 380 to sell; down from last year; initial order was 900, sold this year for \$12
 - Gaby emailed Dominick (AVID leader) to get her input – she said cost and size were factors
 - CMS sold their planners for \$5; Gaby will contact CMS to find out where they print, etc.
 - It was assumed more freshman would buy them, however we broke even. Planner profits will help fund staff appreciation events.
 - New this year: Second Tuesday of every month, Spirit Store will be open 4-7pm and hope to push planner sales here.
 - Will sell about 50 planners to counselors, teachers, etc. at cost.
 - Moving forward, get a marketing/sales plan in place earlier. Ask kids what they want in a planner, perhaps sell two sizes?

ACTION ITEM: Gaby to work on ideas for planner sales.

- Resource Centers, Michelle Fourre
 - Science Resource Center: figure out how to get volunteers. Science department send out info?
 - Michelle emailed teachers to ask parents to volunteer – no sign ups
 - Michelle contacted youth ministers in EP and got 3 responses
 - May contact rotary clubs
 - Need to use HS parents as resources with Sign Up Genius
 - Suggestion was made to make phone calls as a personal appeal for volunteers
 - At Eagle Ridge "Give us five" idea; mandatory sign-ups for parents
 - Can we have Conn request parent involvement?
 - Plug Facebook groups more
 - Look at communications process more
 - For next time: Michelle do small presentation regarding PeachJar
 - Do two communications per year: what is PTO? What are the volunteer opportunities?
 - Michelle and Laura can write something up - "PTO Volunteer Rush"

ACTION ITEMS: ALL - Think of ideas of how to get parent volunteers.
Michelle – small presentation regarding PeachJar for next meeting.

- Senior Party, Jennifer Patel & Cynthia Riebling
 - Need to remove previous chairs, add these new chairs to account
 - Will send inform us of vacant Chair positions to be filled
- Staff Appreciation, Heidi Gandrud
 - Fall Conference Cafe, October 17 from 3-6pm in the Staff Lounge
 - 1st notice to parents went out in school email on 9/9/16 from Conn
 - Von Hansen's is catering. Will be picnic-style
 - Deli Express option mentioned by Michelle
- Student Directory, Alexa Smith
- Website/Social Media, Michelle Fourre

Reports of Officers

- Secretary, Lori Longie
- Treasurer, Darla Nemec
- Vice President, Kelly Regan
- President, Esti Ollerman

Announcements

- FEPS 5K for EPS Schools - 9/24/16 at 8:30am, www.FoundationforEPSchools.org
- Next PTO Board Meeting - Monday October 17, 2016

Esti suggested that the PTO members put our ideas on the agenda so we can use our time to make a plan.

ACTION ITEM - Esti will send the agenda a week before the meeting. Anything you want to report on, include on the agenda. Action items will be done in the meeting.

Adjournment