

## **EHSPTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

10/2/19 7:00PM EH Library

BOARD ATTENDING: Liz Barrett – President  
Amy Boss – VP  
Lauren Holzer - Treasurer  
Katie Gorman – Recording Secretary  
Beth McCool - Trustee

### Principal's Report - Gerry Bissinger

- Great opening to school and nice first community meeting.
- First two-hour delayed opening was valuable time, worked with NJSLA results data and individual time with teacher leaders for 5th grade.
- First school store was successful.
- Will review HIB scores tomorrow, 10/3, 8:30.
- Week of Respect Week is week of 10/8.
- Recess Runners launches next week and was paid for out of Gerry's budget. Students get individual QR code to track progress over the series of runs.
- Parent visitation and picture day upcoming in two weeks

### BOE representative - Tom Vecchio

- Last Thursday Maureen Eyles resigned from BOE. Residents can apply for the temporary, 12-month appointment. The board makes the selection.
- Raptor security system now in place at EHS for identifying school visitors.
- Also regarding safety, plans for new vestibules at Lizzy and Tatem were sent to the state for their review, who has 90 days to review before passing back to board. The BOE then bids the project to start construction.
- The curriculum meeting is next week. Progress is tremendous, allowing parents to see their child's plan and their progress at each step.
- The settlement with the Bancroft site, board and community group still an open issue. Urged all to attend commissioner meetings to see full financial impact of the proposed development and ongoing negotiations.

### President Update - Liz Barrett

- Parents Socials did not happen or K and 4 due to lack of host home volunteers. New ideas from those grades included cutting off sign-up time earlier to allow time to help organize a night out somewhere else with enough notice.
- School district requires fresh sign-ups every year in order to receive PTA e-blast. Encourage friends to sign-up. Email list is strong and engagement with emails is good.

- Paid PTA members get voting rights on what events the PTA does and what the board spends money on. We need to communicate better what it means to join the PTA. Need to boost fundraising efforts to make up for lacking PTA member dues.
  - Gerry considering offering an incentive to the class with the highest paid PTA members, such as a school store credit.
  - Gerry suggests setting up a signup table at Avondale playground. May capture younger parents who do not know understand or know to join.
  - Beth suggests a flyer listing the current paid members as a "Thank You". Need to tailor the "why join" message to be more appealing to those who have not paid.
  - Gerry suggests reintroducing sponsored paver project. Need to recruit a committee chair.
- Fall Fair update
  - Increased ask for fall fair money but reduced the cost of class party.

#### Treasurer's Report - Lauren Holzer

- Revenues are net negative because of start of year costs but that will improve as revenue events occur.
- Fall Fair update:
  - Sponsorship is currently at \$250, but will increase closer to fair. However, sponsors are needed.
  - Fair revenues have been decreasing every year.
  - Goal of tombola baskets is to increase revenues. Allow room parents to choose their own basket theme to help engage the classes better.
  - Gerry and staff coming up with ideas for silent auction. Lauren asking for donations of gift cards and silent auction items. Considering using BidPal as the bidding platform.
  - Offering a Basket Preview this year the day before the fair, where visitors can purchase tombola and allocate their tickets to baskets.
    - New numbered tickets this year will be used to improve tombola basket process.
- Membership is at 34% of our family base. Goal is to double the number of families with a paid membership.
- Other big ticket items in terms of costs was spent on teacher wishlists.

#### VP Update - Amy Boss

- Dine & Donate update:
  - Approach to Dine & Donate is to host on half days when possible.
  - Mod Pizza funds are in.
  - Bread Board will be Oct 16 and Passereillos will be scheduled for November
- Next steps with membership is to help tailor the call-to-subscribe message to encourage paid memberships.

- No major changes to Ice Cream Social and the addition of the gaga pit was a success. Will change time to 6-7:30 next year.

#### Trustee Update - Beth McCool

- Spaghetti Bingo is on thanks to donation of pasta and sauce by Valente's. Pizza bread will also be donated by a companion pizzeria to Valente's. Meatballs will be purchased at cost to feed the approximate 420 attendees.
- Looking for an options for a dessert donation.

#### Committee Updates

- Hospitality (Cara Gaul)
  - Teacher breakfast scheduled for December, and a sign-up list will go out prior.
  - Will also put out a sign-up request for homemade meals for the teachers to cover parent-teacher conference days.
- Room Parents (Lisa Nolan)
  - All room parent posts are filled
- 3 v. 3 Basketball Tournament (Dan Kubikian)
  - Middle School Gym is secured for Nov 22.
  - Looking for committee chairs and organizers.

#### Open Questions / Comments

- Sue McCarroll will host her card making day for pediatric cancer patients again this year. Gerry suggests half-day Dec 16 as the day to host the event.

END MINUTES