

# **Elmhurst PTA Council Minutes**

## **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

In attendance:

Casey Braun  
Kristi Amendola  
Moirra McGovern  
Patti Berner  
Beth Hosler  
Megan Corrigan  
Phil Fernandez  
Jim Collins  
Dave Moyer  
Melea Smith  
Kerrie Samuelian  
Michelle Wehrle  
Christine Ferreri  
Michelle Caruso  
Courtenae Trautmann  
Kristie Szejner  
Ana Nichols

Call to Order at 7:05 by Casey Braun

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from March 2018 meeting by Beth Hosler & Courtenae Trautmann

### **Superintendent Update – Dr. David Moyer**

The CAT team has been formed for community engagement regarding development of master facilities plan. The group will help shape communication to the public. Admin. will run ideas through the group, find out where they think clarification should be made etc. They first met on March 19th will meet again April 23rd. Boundaries are being reviewed, and any possible changes to boundaries will be openly discussed as soon as information is in. Impact in this area will be minimal. The district will develop a plan to share info after the board sees it. Architects and other groups will meet April 4th. Revised strategy will be taken to the board first and then community soon thereafter. A handout was passed out with links to the master planning process.

The district is piloting standards based reporting at Hawthorne and Field. That will eventually expand to all elementary schools. There will be parent meetings to discuss that process and answer questions. This system will be more aligned to the teaching that is happening in the classrooms. Teachers think it will be better. It does not equate to a regular grade point average as we know it.

One parent noted that during the pilot at Field, it was easy to see the growth that occurred in the trimester and she liked the information that was shared.

Teachers will be coached on how to communicate to parents about it so that everyone understands the process.

Board presentation on Fountus and Pinnell will happen at the next board meeting Tuesday, April 10th. The administration has been following certain classes to check on progress with this system. They have found that many more kids are reading at grade level with this new system.

Band, Orchestra, Choir numbers- Dr. Moyer noted that for incoming 6th graders, there is basically no change in the numbers participating. Bryan was down slightly, but they believe that is because they have a smaller 6th grade class coming in. There are less students taking a language in 6th grade that chose project lead the way. Some incoming 7th graders are considering dropping language and picking it up again in HS.

### **School Board Update – Jim Collins**

Biggest project right now is the referendum. Jim explained that awhile back, the board refinanced all of the debt of the school district. They chose to pay it off early and saved the community 15 million dollars. All debt will be paid off in 2024 and remainder in 2025. Our schools are at a point where they need things. To maintain home values we need to update our schools. We have an opportunity to go to the community and ask them to help update the quality of our district schools. Taxes will either go down, stay the same or increase slightly. The community can make the choice based on priorities. Help the board learn what the community wants. The board wants to provide a comprehensive plan that will work for the community in the long term. Jim noted that 70% of this community does not have kids in the schools. They should want great schools for property values and their grandchildren. More likely thier kids will settle here with good schools. Please talk to older neighbors and inform them and find out what their questions or concerns are.

### **District Communications Melea Smith-**

Large group focus groups will be created. They will be working with social media, ads, and another thought exchange survey because it is interactive. We need to get the community involved. An annual report is being created and will be passed out to the community. At the highest level, the tax increase for \$350,000 will increase about \$30 a year.

The tax increase will be as minimal as possible.

Dr. Moyer mentioned that the cost to maintain Lincoln and bring it up to equity (safe, secure, hvac, libraries, etc.) would be \$26.1 Million as opposed to new school approx \$32.5 million.

They will soon have high level estimates for each building. Starting to put together very clear numbers. The question was asked about the difference in cost of renovating Field vs. building new. They are looking into that, and trying to put these numbers in simple format.

Need to find out what people want and are willing to support.

Jim mentioned that they may have to adjust borders with certain options. You would not have any current families affected by the boundary changes. If we miss this opp. for all day K, not sure when we'll get another chance. We are outliers without all day K. We are spending this money for the future generations. Focus should not be about how this will affect them, but how the big picture looks, especially for future generations.

Melea - CAT team Marcia Sutter presented at the last board meeting about the CAT. It was brought to Melea's attention that there were no members under 35. This was a snafu because the matrix was incorrect. The 11 people who applied who were 24-35, were not picked up in the matrix. They will be having a Conrad parent pull 3 names of the 11 who will be invited to join the group. Melea took responsibility for the mistake.

Question was asked about board members being present at the CAT meetings to hear the community feedback. Thought it would be a good idea.

Jim Collins said have PTA discussion about the referendum and have the board members there to hear the general feedback. Final presentation will hopefully be ready by the end of the month. Possibly will be talking about different topics at different times at various meetings.

### **President's Report - Casey Braun**

Casey reiterated that the PTA council is there to help communicate information to the community on various topics. Please try to point parents in the right direction and lead them to the correct information from the correct source. Help people make an informed decision. She also passed out the Slate of nominations for next year's PTA council board from the nominating committee.

This will be voted on at the next meeting.

### **Questions from PTA presidents:**

Someone asked about the issue at York on the Friday before spring break and how it was mostly a Study Hall. How will this be handled in the future?

This was a very difficult situation with many unknown pieces. Precautions had to be taken.

Every case will be handled separately. They wanted parents to know that the district is all over student safety every day. They don't want people to start using this to cause disruption.

It was mentioned that the Top Pizza Event should not be on the same night as BRAG night and other district events. That way they could get better attendance.

Superintendent coffee was changed to April 25th at 9:45am at Lincoln.

### **VP Scholarship – Emily Bastedo & Heidi Maier**

There were 53 applicants for scholarships. They will name those who received them at the Monday April 23rd award ceremony. They raised \$16,000 for scholarships.

Thank you to everyone who participated. They will be sending out a plug about PTA scholarship reps for next year from each school. Casey will put complete description in newsletter to PTA Council.

### **SERG – Kristin Boxall**

Kristin is trying to step down from SERG. They are looking for someone else and she will help anyone with the transition.

### **Reflections - Michelle Wehrle**

Reached out for feedback on displays. Did closing celebration at Judith B.

23 students attended. Every entry was displayed in some way. Played the films and dance. State results will be out mid April. May 6th spotlight celebration. Michelle mentioned that the Elmhurst Art museum would have the celebration for us next year.

Summer Rec Open House – Jill McCall

### **Adjournment**

Kristi Amendola and Stacy Hildy motioned to adjourn.