

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization (EHPTO)

***December 5, 2023 /January 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes combined**

Welcome and Attendance

School Updates

- Eastgate/Prickly Pear – Brandon Crusat
 - Music Programs
 - The staff and kids reported that the Big Buddy Program is a lot of success. The committee met and are making plans for a Spring celebration.
 - Winter Benchmarking – math and reading assessments will be completed and then re-sorting for placement in focus groups.
 - Playground installation was able to be covered under the school's insurance. CTI installed the playground equipment
 - 2nd Grade SWINGS are UP!!
- Radley – Gus Somerfeld
 - Music Programs
 - Winter Benchmark – Assessments will be completed and then re-sorting and placement in focus groups.
- EVMS – Lynsi Morris/Michael Kemper
 - Sports underway – including 7th/8th grade girls basketball tryouts
 - Concerts
 - Friday Fun Day – Kids recognized at home games
 - Ski Trips – 8th grade

PTO Updates/Items

Financial Update – Shandi

December update (Shandi):

- Discussion of the amount of funds the PTO can donate to the Radley Boiler. The current cash balance is in excess of \$72,000. Of this balance, just over \$12k of budgeted expenditures have not yet been spent. That leaves us with approximately \$60K that we can put toward Dan's requests, pending approval. While we could spend this full balance, the treasurer recommends keeping a minimum of \$5k in the account to allow for emergency items. In the past we have maintained and even greater balance. This is just the maximum we have available. ... Budget is attached

January update (Krysti):

- Income of .62 cents from interest.
- Emergency buckets were replenished for \$118.72
- Current budget \$72,845.15.....Budget is attached

Gift Giving Tree – Mindy Schubert

December update:

- All 42 families have been signed up for through the signup genius.
- Donation received \$500.00 to purchase any gifts needed from Nidia Murray and family.
- All gifts are collected sorted and checked off

January update:

- Reimbursement for 22 cards for the grocery gift cards was approved \$1,100.
- The Dart Tournament raised \$3,00.00 so they did 4 families. The extra money was used to buy candy and pajamas. They also provided gift cards for groceries and then the PTO purchased the additional grocery gift cards needed so every family received a gift card.

PTO Logo Creation

December update:

- The group decided it would be good to get students involved in the creation. Lynsi suggested Ms. Warner at EVMS. She has a group of students that may work on creating some options. The PTO would have K-8 students vote on which one they like best.

January update:

- Ms. Warner reported the group of students she had in mind is, unfortunately, not interested. She is going to see if the new semester of kids are interested. The PTO may have to form a committee to design the logo instead. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Student appreciation committee

Volunteers: Shannon Hovden, Jenn Warner, Katie Glaze

January update:

- Available funds allotted in the budget is \$1,500
- Member brainstorming: Maybe a "Day of Awesomeness" kind of a day for each school

- PTO will give the committee time to get together and come up with some ideas. They are still working out the details of what awards are going to be, the process, how many, and the budget for each. They will report out at the next meeting as it all gets finalized.

Staff Appreciation

December update:

- Start beginning of 2024 – Box Lunches

January update:

- Missed doing the box lunches in January. Still thinking the box lunches will happen, just at a later date.

Teacher Conference Dinners

Dinner will be a Taco/Nacho Bar – School reps will send out the signup genius for their assigned schools

Conference dates:

- EG/PPE- 1/30/2024
- EVMS- 2/5/2024
- Radley – 2/13/2024

District improvements discussion – Dan Rispens

Boiler discussion:

December:

- The PTO will have a fundraiser and PTO will advertise matching up to a specific amount.
- The fundraiser committee consists of Shasta Steinweden, Dave Powell, Lacey Moore, Shandi Hayes and Ariel Simon. Some suggested ideas:
 - Bingo at the Brewery (Missouri River Brewing Company has non-profit bingo nights)
 - Basket Raffles
 - Read a thons in the spring – Ms.Morris
 - Concession stands
 - Other ideas are open for discussion and timelines

January update from Dan Rispens:

- The Boiler project has a remaining need of \$68,00.00
- PTO is pledging to do a matching fundraiser up to \$30,000.00 - approved

- American Chemet and Blue Cross BlueShield have been asked for a pledge and Dan is still waiting to hear from both of them. The District will continue to look for additional resources to help cover the costs.

School Playgrounds update: Future discussion of fundraising and supporting

Other questions/comments:

- The tiger link has been taken off the website due to the company being non-responsive to 3 different attempts of Shandi contacting them. A parent ordered 2 shirts for kids and they never received them.
- Brandon: The Tiger fund will be running out in 2 years. The budget for this has been 7,000 a year. Requesting the PTO to consider funding in the future.

Next meeting: March 5, 2024