

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization (EHPTO)
Meeting agenda and minutes
September 5, 2023
6:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

School Updates:

Eastgate – Brandon Crusat

- Received a PE Grant for new floor hockey and T-Ball equipment.
- Staff lounges were spruced up with the funds received by the PTO last Spring. Staff were a part of this decision process.
- Tiger Fund - this money is drying up. Is used for families in need. 3 funds that were combined into 1. go into one Will need to allocate for the future

Prickly Pear – Brandon Crusat

- Staff lounges were spruced up with the funds received by the PTO last Spring. Staff were a part of this decision process.
- Assessments are underway
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters- joined with Kessler @ High School. Details were provided at a PTO meeting during the last school year.
 - Working on pairing students up now.

Radley – Gus Somerfeld

- Our school had some facelifts over the summer. The playground and parking lot have new asphalt, new carpet in the 4th grade hallway, and new desks!
- The PTO had approved and funded the purchase of new Basketball hoops last May. We still need to order them as it didn't get completed by the end of the year.
- Revamped teacher lounge with PTO funds: Staff decided on a popcorn maker, an ice maker, and keurigs.
- We have a multitier system- academic & behavior, common behavior metrics, and lesson books for teachers to teach expectations.
- Intervention processes
- The Olweus kick-off assembly went well!
- Assessments are also underway at Radley.

EVMS – Lynsi Morris

- Currently 493 kids are enrolled at EVMS. This is 20 above what was planned for. There are 161- 8th graders and 181- 7th graders
- EVMS has Learning labs (45 minute during advisory), and study skills (using reading 180)

- Volleyball tryouts happened recently. We had 71 students who tried out, but only have 28 spots for 7th, and 28 for 8th. Working on additional ways to include extra students. Possibly have C teams, etc.
- Cross Country has started.
- EHHS Homecoming Sept 22nd: Students will be released at 1:15 (middle school and High School only)

PTO Updates:

Treasurer update (Krysti Krall)

- We are on a clean slate for this year since not much has been done yet.
- Checking account is currently at \$52,677.00
- School request
 - Brandon requesting funds for the “ Para - Team” to set up their personal storage area for the items. Requesting to purchase 10 locker units and coat Racks which will cost approximately \$1500.
- Expenses approved
 - \$500.00 for Eastgate Recycling program (this is in the budget).
 - Eastgate lockers for paras up to \$1500.

Update on new Fundraiser (Step it Up-Be the One)

- The Fundraiser is running through a different group this year! it is focusing more on the kids' involvement with a “Positive Vibes Kindness” Theme. With this program the payout percentage is higher. Starts at 50% and goes up to 75%
 - Virtual Kick off – Monday the 18th (in classroom video)
 - Golden tickets go home Monday (due back Tue/Wed)
 - Random drawings for additional prizes outside of the golden ticket prizes.
 - \$500 Visa gift card, \$100 Amazon cards, Starbucks cards, mini fridges with cash, Ipad, AirPods.
 - Slushy machines with cash are the prizes for the Good Vibes Voucher drawing.
 - Fundraiser ends – Mon, Oct 2nd
 - No Day of Awesomeness or next level prizes. – Coordinators felt like the PTO could come up with our own celebrations with funds raised or current funds.

Principal/School agenda items

School supply lists (continuation of conversation from September 2022 meeting)

- Brandon (EG/PPE) is exploring the possibility where the schools will possibly do the ordering for a set fee to families as an alternative to school supply lists. There is, currently, a stockpile that can be used for next year that could possibly change the amounts requested. No decisions have been made on an option yet.
- Lynsi said they could use the leftover supplies from Stuff the Bus to possibly adjust next year's school supply lists. EVMS

PTO requests for school communication. How would we like to have them communicate to families via their newsletters and what do we want to communicate?

- Brandon sends newsletter once a month
- Gus sends newsletter 1st of the month
- EVMS - sends a newsletter every Monday
 - Some information discussed were:
 - Tiger gear link. Principals will put in the next newsblast. Shandi will pin the link on the EHPTO Facebook page.
 - Will update principals with information the PTO would like to share out monthly. Such as PTO purchases, upcoming events, current activities, etc.

PTO Volunteer positions still vacant

- School representation in the group
 - The bylaws state we are to have a rep from each school (teacher, etc) to come to meetings. Shandi will put the request in again. Will possibly need to discuss some incentive to get these roles filled.
- Bulletin Boards - all school have said this would be a great idea.
 - Duties - update the PTO bulletin board. Will include upcoming events. current activities, etc.
 - Could possibly be something that is included in the school reps role if no additional interest based on their capacity (for this current year).
- PTO Spring movie coordinator, event is held at a school - 1 needed
 - Duties include helping make popcorn, coordinating with principals to choose school and set date, etc, picking movie.
- 8th Grade window painting coordinator needed
 - Provides Popcorn and Hot Chocolate to 8th grade painters on day of.

Upcoming events

- Teacher grants mid Oct-Nov
 - Coordinator will distribute information.
 - PTO is looking into a new process. The website is cumbersome and hard to get the data out. Teachers have to sign in so any additional staff who would like to put in a request have to have a teacher submit it on their behalf or they email separately.
 - All staff are eligible to put in for a grant. Would love to see more teachers submit a grant. Wondering what may be the reason for them not submitting.
 - Gus said it could possibly be the amount of up to \$150. Things are more expensive now. The amount hasn't been raised for a long time.
- Teacher Conference dinners November
 - Prickly Pear November 14th and 16th
 - Radley November 14th and 16th
 - EVMS November 8th and 9th

October meeting will have a guest speaker - architect firm (SMA) would like to come and give a short presentation (about 15 minutes). This would be a great time for folks/stakeholders to get information on what they are doing with gathering information on the growth of EH and recommendations as well as ask questions.

Dinner provided at the October meeting was previously planned before the addition of a guest speaker.

- The PTO will do refreshments and light snacks instead to ensure enough time to get to all agenda items.

PTO Logo creation (initial discussion to be continued at an upcoming meeting)

- Possible school/student competition?
- Radley has staff who have a Cricut Machine and can assist with the printing of the developed logo.

Next meeting is October 3rd from 6-7:30pm. Additional time added to accommodate the guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.