

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes by Stacy Anderson
March 6, 2018 6:00pm-6:55pm

Attendees: Ron Whitmoyer, Amy Strainer, Stacy Anderson, Clancy Casey, Erica Johnston, Mike Christensen, Vashti Teders, Megan Surginer, Scott Ireland, Jamie Tuck, KD Jones, Trish Klock, Jill Miller, Stephanie Higgins, Moriah Bucy, Shandi Hayes, Valerie Balukas, Brooke Mortensen, Diedra Murray, Dan Rispens, Mindy Schubert, Nikki Matoon, Mattie Siaperas, Jen Wagner

School update, Ron Whitmoyer: Ron distributed information sheets with quick facts on the East Helena High School Bond. This information is also available on the district website. The district has been working on providing the cost benefit analysis. For those unable to attend meetings regarding the high school, you can email Ron @ rwhitmoyer@ehps.k12.mt.us to be put on the email list for any updates on future meetings. Mail ballots go out on April 23rd and are due back on or before May 8. Informational kick off meeting scheduled for April 16 @ 5:30pm at EVMS. Meetings will be streamed live on the district Facebook page if you are unable to attend!

Principal updates:

Jill Miller, Eastgate: February was “I Love to Read” month with themed Fridays. Carroll College football players came in and read to the kids, which was a big hit. Kids celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 1. Applications are currently being accepted for the Pre-K and KinderCub programs. Kindergarten registration is also open. Information available on the district website or by calling Eastgate. Students participated in Jump Rope for Heart and raised \$3,850! Jill thanked the PTO for the snacks provided for this event. February 23, seniors from Helena High came and did a science circus for the students. Students can participate in the St. Baldrick’s fundraiser on a couple of upcoming Fridays. Students can bring \$1 and wear a hat or pj’s. Irish dancers will be visiting the school on March 16th. Spring Break is the last week of March!

KD Jones, filling in for Joe McMahon, Radley: Two spring programs coming up: 3rd graders will perform “Thwacked” on March 8 at 2:00pm and 6:30pm and 4th graders will perform “Welcome to Prickly Pear, Our Home” on March 22 at 2:00pm and 6:30pm. 5th graders will have a wax museum presentation March 9 from 12:30pm-1:30pm. 4th graders will be taking the Mont/Cas Science Assessment March 13-15. Students from HHS will talk to Radley students March 14 about the upcoming HHS science circus. Radley will be holding a boys vs. girls ‘Penny War’ to raise funds to help fight childhood cancer. Coins can be brought to the school March 12-23rd. Irish Dancers will be at Radley also on March 16. 2nd graders will be attending a production of “The Little Mermaid” at the Carroll College Little Theater on April 27. Proceeds from the PTO fundraiser will go towards covering the \$3 per student admission fee.

Dan Rispens, EVMS: 3rd Trimester started today. Dan explained the process and benefits of the 3 trimester system. 8th graders doing CRT science testing. This is required testing for 4th, 8th and 10th grade students. PTO fundraiser proceeds went to providing students with Hershey kisses and mints to help keep them focused! 7th grade band students participating in the band festival at the Civic Center March 7 and 8th grade band students have their festival March 8. Festival is also attended by students from CR Anderson and Helena Middle School band students with guest conductors leading them. Performances both days are free and open to the public each day starting at 4pm. Honor choir students travelled to Hamilton on March 2 for a big regional choir festival. Despite bad roads, they had a great time and made it home safely. The Jazz band students will be travelling to the University of Montana

campus for a festival as well. Performances are available to watch via the district Facebook page. Tryouts going on for the EVMS talent show. Please note, the new date for the talent show is scheduled for April 6 at 2:00pm in the EVMS gym. Parents are invited to attend! Students can participate in the St. Baldrick's fundraiser by bringing \$1 to wear a hat on March 16 and \$5 to listen to music on their personal devices on March 23. Dan is working on renewing some grant requests, specifically the programs funded by the Montana Board of Crime Control. He is also working on the Indian Education grant through the Federal government to continue to provide the position of the Indian Impact teacher. Dan and Ron have been talking a lot about submitting a request through the Montana Board of Crime Control to help fund a School Resource Officer for the East Helena Schools. They are working with the City of East Helena to try to put this together.

Debrief on February activities:

Jump Rope for Heart: Vashti reports that the event went great and the snack packs were a huge success, thanks to the increase in the budgeted amount for this. Mrs. Fetherston and Mr. Ireland had thank you cards made and signed by the students for the PTO. Scott reported that Radley raised \$1500 from the event.

UpTop Hats: Amy brought a few hats for the group to see.

Budget Update, Erica: Continuing to get residual income from the Great American Fundraiser. Net profit from that is close to \$28,000. Currently have \$17,500 in the bank. With reserve to savings, outstanding checks and an unrecorded deposit, along with projected spending the rest of the school year, we should end the year with \$11,718, not including the \$5,000 nest egg. With this current balance, Erica stated her support for continued giving to the schools as their needs come up. Reimbursement requests: Vashti, \$399.99 and KD, \$172.07. Diedra made a motion to approve the reimbursement requests, Amy second. All in favor.

Box Tops, Shandi: Radley participating in their "March Madness" themed competition. Eastgate doing classroom competitions. PTO pays for a pizza party for the highest collecting class. Shandi reports her recent submission of Box Tops came out to \$607.70.

PTO Movie night, Moriah and Stephanie: Planned for April 13 at Eastgate. There will also be a table for information on suicide prevention and the school bond.

East Helena community skate event: April 14 at the Helena Ice Arena. 1:30pm-3:00pm for younger and beginners with lights on. 3:00-4:30pm for older and advanced with Lazer skate. Cost is \$5 which includes skate rental. Tova from the Suicide Prevention Coalition is planning to have an information table at the arena for this event. Conference room at the arena is also available to be able to present information to parents while the kids are skating.

Out of the Darkness-Campus Walk: Planned for April 28. Heather is looking for volunteers for registration table and other jobs. Contact her if you can help out! Other fundraising opportunities for Out of the Darkness coming up:

- Crunch for a Cause at Taco Johns: March 22, 5:00-7:00pm. Must have coupon or show image on phone. 50% of proceeds go towards OOTD.

- Painting with a Purpose at the VFW (downstairs): March 29, 7:00-9:00pm. Must reserve a spot online for \$35 www.paintingwithatwist.com – password EAST). 50% of proceeds go towards OOTD.
- Community Night at Smith’s Place: April 13, 5:00-9:00pm. Must have coupon or show image on phone. 20% of proceeds go towards OOTD.
- Out of the Darkness-Campus Walk: April 28, 1:00-4:00pm. Register on the website <http://afsp.donordrive.com/event/easthelen>. Form a team or be a virtual walker!
- Windbag Cares Event: May 29, 5:00pm-?. 20% of proceeds go towards OOTD.

This information is also available on the Out of the Darkness Facebook page.

#YES4EHKIDS is needing volunteers to help with phone calls to registered voters, distributing yard signs and flyers. Please contact Amy or Ron if you can help get the word out!

Giving Tree Update, Clancy and Mindy: Mindy and Clancy talked to the group about needing to make some changes to the process to make it easier, as this important project is a huge undertaking and very time consuming. The Secret Shoppers have asked if they can receive the list of “needs” earlier so they can do their shopping. Mindy asked about moving up the date that gifts are due back to the school. Ideas were brought up to do wrapping parties at the school for people to help out, however, storage space at the schools for the wrapped gifts is another problem when wrapping at the school. Gifts would have to be hauled out of the school after being wrapped and then brought back when it was time to distribute to the families. Vashti volunteered her classroom to use after school hours to wrap gifts. Mindy asked about having a date and location set in stone ahead of time for the wrapping party might make it easier for more people to attend. Another idea was providing the families with wrapping paper and tape along with their gifts so they can do their own wrapping. Jen Wagner volunteered the use of an empty room in her home to store the wrapped gifts. However, the new Prickly Pear Elementary school will be a great option for storage space. Clancy also said they could use parent volunteers to help get all of the gifts to the school on distribution day. Please contact Mindy or Clancy with any suggestions. Please keep this event and the volunteer needs in mind for next year as this is a very important event!

Next meeting is April 3rd @ 6:00pm, EVMS Library. This is our annual meeting. Nominations are open for the 2018-19 PTO positions:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Box Top Submission Coordinator
School Reps (all 4 schools)
Teacher Grant Coordinator
Fundraiser Coordinator

Gift Giving Tree Coordinator
Octoberfest Coordinators
Jump Rope for Heart
Tiger Gear Coordinator
PTO Movie Night Coordinator
Teacher Appreciation
Field Fun Day Coordinator
Bulletin Boards (all 4 schools)