

EAST HELENA PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (EHPTO)
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 3, 2017

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Higgins, Shandi Hayes, Robyn Arntson, Tricia Haines, Shana Dachs, Breylee Lervold, Trish Klock, Ron Whitmoyer, Valerie Balukas, Joe McMahon, Stacy Anderson, Kelly Clagg, Jessica Barrett, Jamie Tuck, Marne Bender, Ericka Carroll, Brooke Mortensen, Vashti Teders, Moriah Bucy, Clancy Casey, Jill Miller, Dan Rispens, Amy Strainer, Deb Butzlaff

Ron Whitmoyer, EH High School Initiative: Ballots are mailed on October 18, 2017. Due on or before November 7, 2017. This vote is to give the school board authorization to begin researching the cost. School board question and answer session for the community is October 12, 2017. Postcards about this session were mailed this week with session time and place. Everyone is welcome to attend this.

SCHOOL UPDATES:

Jill Miller, Eastgate: Fall Benchmark testing is completed. Open house was September 21. Lots of people attended. 500+ meals were served. Adopt a species assembly was also September 21. The big horn sheep is the adopted species this year. An owl was also brought in for the kids to see and learn about. Teachers and staff are working on becoming a Trauma Informed school. Training session was held on early release day, September 25. Any questions regarding this, please contact Jill. Walk to School day is October 4, with a free breakfast to follow. No school October 19-20. Red Ribbon week starts October 23. Picture day went well. The new elementary school building is shaping up. October 5, two randomly selected 1st grade classes will go to the site of the new building for a photo op with the State Superintendent of Schools and the Montana Contractors Association to highlight the school construction.

Joe McMahon, Radley: Kids enjoyed their Adopt a species assembly. Their animal is the Osprey. PTO funds from the previous year used to purchase shirts for the 3rd graders "Cheer Team", formerly known as "Cheer Readers". Extra precautions were taken due to recent bear siting at JFK Park. Parents/families were notified via Facebook and district email. October 27 is kickoff for Olweus anti-bullying assembly. 2nd and 3rd graders get "Tootles" for demonstrating good/kind behaviors. Can be given to a group or an individual.

Dan Rispens, EVMS: Enrollment is at 405. First time ever that enrollment is over 400. Projected future enrollment numbers to continue to grow. 5 additional classrooms and additional office space will be built onto the EVMS building. October 25 @ 2pm is Red Ribbon parade. Starts at Radley, down Montana Avenue, down Main Street to Kalispell Street and ends at EVMS. The entire week, supported by education and law enforcement, to promote healthy choices and avoid drugs and unsafe behaviors. Shakespeare in the Schools will be at EVMS end of October/beginning of September and will be performing *Twelfth Night*. Will also be staying on site to provide 4 workshops for those students interested.

Great American Fundraiser: Kickoff assembly at Eastgate October 5, 2017 and at Radley October 6, 2017. Volunteer letters went out on October 4. Packets will come home with students after assembly. Product pickup day is November 16. Keychain theme is “chickens” which are all in bags, so kids will not know what chicken they are getting. Mrs. Bender is helping with middle school volunteers.

Clancy Casey, Octoberfest: Planned for October 28, 6:00pm at Eastgate. Will need volunteers for set up on October 27 @ 5:30pm. Will also need volunteers during the event to assist with games, etc.

Gift Giving Tree: Lisa is working with central office to have trees up by Parent-Teacher conferences.

Tiger Gear: Order forms will be sent out earlier this year. Will be provided on Parent-Teacher conference night. Will have a few sample items available for people to see the product prior to ordering. Rivals Athletics is again partnering with the PTO for the Tiger Gear.

Tentative Budget/Approval: Budget is tentative pending finalized fundraiser. Emergency buckets budget increased to \$450. Jump Rope for Heart budget increased to \$400 due to enrollment growth. Movie Night budget kept the same with possibility of additional movie night/parent education night being added. Big ticket item of new bleachers for EVMS will be approximately \$75,000. Current bleachers are still functional, but will need to be updated soon. Amy made a motion to approve the tentative budget with the changes/budget increases of the three events listed above. Jamie second. All approve. Expense reimbursements: Clancy Casey, Octoberfest supplies for \$134.34 and Shandi Hayes, labels/box tops shipping and envelope expenses for \$37.06. Amy made a motion to approve these reimbursements, Jamie second. All approve.

Parent-Teacher Conference dinners: EVMS dinner will be November 7. Eastgate and Radley dinner will be November 14. All agreed on “Taco bar” for the menu.

Recycling Program: EVMS has a sponsor. Radley has a possible sponsor for the recycling program. Laura from Eastgate is working on a possible sponsor. Cost of sponsoring the program is \$450. Moriah Bucy will research possible sponsorship options through Montana DEQ. Amy will also look into other possible sponsorship options.

Ericka Carroll, Teacher grants: Grant application website open November 1 through November 15. PTO will vote on applications at the December meeting.

Costume exchange: Went well at Eastgate open house. Had 80 costumes to begin, gave away approximately 50. Would like to do one at Radley. Amy will research a date/time to do this. Volunteers are needed!

Deb Butzlaff, Teacher Appreciation: Once a month providing baked goods and will also have a monthly drawing of goodies. Each month has a special saying to go along with goodies. During appreciation week, she is working on a planter/seeds gift for each teacher with additional goodies. Teachers are loving the monthly goodies 😊

Shandi Hayes, Campbell's Labels/Box Tops: Shandi submitted 8531 points for labels and 2397 box tops.

Group decided to skip November PTO meeting due to Parent-Teacher conference night. Next meeting will be **December 5, 2017 at 6:00pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm