

**EAST HELENA PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (EHPTO)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 6:00 – 6:55PM**

**ATTENDEES:** Jaymie Casey, Jess Hegstrom, Katie Griffiths, Adrienne Simonson, Jamie Tuck, Marni Bender, Haylie Wisemiller, Stacy Anderson, Jill Miller, Nidia Munay, Julie Martinsen, Heather Ireland, Kelly Clagg, Megan Hernandez, Shandi Hayes, Erica Johnston, Megan Surginer, KD Jones, Katy Hauer, Stacy Baird, Mindy Schubert, Lisa Larson, Stephanie Higgins, Brooke Mortensen, Valerie Balukas, Braylee Lervold, Joe McMahon, Bianca Lincoln, Dan Rispens, Leslie Justice, Nichole Christensen, Clancy Casey, Jen Wagner, Angela Smith, Amy Strainer.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**SCHOOL UPDATES:**

**Jill Miller, Eastgate:** The Good Behavior Game has begun. Going well. Teachers are really liking it. Students are learning the components of the program. This summer, Eastgate was awarded a grant through the state for a Pre-K classroom. 18 kids enrolled in Pre-K along with 18 kids in Kinder Cubs. Eastgate Open House 9/21/17 from 6-7:30pm. Hot dogs will be served. School picture day is 9/26/17.

**Joe McMahon, Radley:** Open house was 8/28/17 which went well. School picture day is 09/12/17. 5<sup>th</sup> grade band instrument rental was 09/05/17. Rusty will be visiting on 11/14/17 and will share his positive messages with the kids. Parent teacher conferences start 11/14/17. Proceeds from last year's fundraiser allowed Radley to install a water bottle filling station in the hallway by the gym. Current enrollment at Radley is 541, up from last year's enrollment of 523.

**Dan Rispens, EVMS:** Open house was 08/28/17. Enrollment is at a new record this year of 406, up from 399 last year. Had to turn away quite a few out of district tuition applications. First 3 days are busy with the students learning the ropes of middle school and the rules/expectations. Volleyball (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls/boys) started 09/05/17, Cross Country started 09/05/17 and Intramural Soccer starts 09/11/17. Other extracurricular activities available are Yearbook, Book Crew, Game Nation, Student Council and Math Counts. Board of Crime Grant was given to EVMS again this year which funds the after school programs such as Friday fishing and ski trips, all of the enrichment classes and the after school choir/honor choir groups. Watch for flyers soon about these program options. School picture day is 10/02/17.

**Jess Hegstrom, Suicide Prevention Parent Education Night:** Interested in PTO/EVMS parent involvement in an education night about suicide prevention. SOS (Signs of Suicide) is a program teachers use to work with EVMS students during their health classes. Dan suggested offering parents the chance learn about the SOS program. QPR is also a program available regarding suicide prevention. 2 QPR presentations/training are coming up: 09/12/17 QPR training for youth 7:30-9p at the Lewis and Clark Library, Helena and 09/14/17 5:45-6:45p at the Lewis and Clark Library, East Helena. Any feedback, suggestions or ideas, or to get involved, please contact Jess at [jhegstrom@ehps.K12.mt.us](mailto:jhegstrom@ehps.K12.mt.us) or Dan at [drispens@ehps.K12.mt.us](mailto:drispens@ehps.K12.mt.us)

**Stacy Baird, Lifepoint Church Fundraiser:** Auction/benefit with dinner is 09/28/17 at East Valley Middle School. Doors open at 5:30p, dinner is at 6p, catered by Karmadillo's. The money raised will go back to

the East Helena schools for the Kids Pack Program. Childcare will be provided! Donations are still being accepted. Ticket sales are going on now. Tickets can be purchased from the Valley Bank East Helena Branch, Valley Bank main branch in Helena, LifePoint Church and all 3 district schools. For more information or for tickets, please go to [www.lifepointmt.org](http://www.lifepointmt.org)

**Great American Fundraiser, Heather Ireland:** Kickoff with assemblies will be 10/05/17 at Eastgate, 10/06/17 at Radley. Turn in date is 10/23/17 with pick up day 11/16/17. Theme this year is “chickens”! This is PTO’s only fundraiser to fulfill teacher grants and/or a big ticket item, such as new bleachers at EVMS. Volunteers will be needed to hand out lanyards, help with parent pick-up day. EVMS kids help with these too.

**Octoberfest, Clancy Casey:** Ok per Jill to have at Eastgate. Clancy asked about having middle school kids come up with games for Octoberfest, with a pizza party going to the class with the favorite game. Discussion about the costume exchange and the confusion from last year. Both events (Octoberfest and the costume exchange) will be advertised as two separate events. Teachers can also put costume exchange information in their individual class newsletters. Volunteers will be needed to help with costume exchange. Amy will take pictures and organize the costumes left over from last year.

**Box Tops/Campbell’s Labels:** Shandi is coordinating submissions. Labels will be accepted through the end of this year. Keep sending your labels and Box Tops. Please check expiration dates prior to submitting. Mrs. Bender’s middle school kids are also helping with checking and organizing Box Tops.

**Treasurers Report/Budget, Erica Johnston:** The draft budget was presented for consideration. The budget for the 2017-2018 school year will be adopted at the October meeting. Members should come to that meeting with questions or comments and be prepared to vote. Anyone coordinating a school event that purchases items needed for that event, please refer to the reimbursement process information on the PTO website.

**Gift Giving Tree, Lisa Larson:** Trees will go up just prior to parent teacher conferences: 11/05/17 at EVMS and 11/12/17 at Eastgate and Radley. The group talked about having family gift tags, along with the individual tags, and tags for donations of money, \$5 tags, \$10 tags, etc. Cash would be used to purchase items needed to fill any remaining tags. Volunteers will be needed to help with signing out the tags.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm. Next meeting October 3, 2017 at 6:00pm.**