

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization (EHPTO)
Meeting Minutes by Nichole Christensen
March 7, 2017 6:00PM

Attendees: Amy Strainer, Stacy Anderson, Nichole Christensen, Stephanie Higgins, Jamie Tuck, Tana Fetherston, Kate Johnson, Shandi Hayes, Vashti Teders, Deb Butzlaff, Trish Klock, K.D. Jones, Dan Rispens, Erica Johnston, Mindy Schubert, Megan Surginer, Lisa Larson

Welcome and Introductions

Principal Updates:

Jill Miller, Eastgate – Mrs. Fetherston gave the report. Build-a-book rescheduled due to weather. Good participation. Ms. Miller dressed a pig because they met their goal of 62,000 minutes in February. YMCA pizza party. Math game family night. All families received games to play at home. Kindergarten registration open. Eastgate hosting movie night on April 7.

Dan Rispens, EVMS – 6th grade trip to Museum of the Rockies Thursday and Friday before spring break. Friday the 17th is the talent show. Upcoming school assemblies: 3screens.com present about making good choices and positive citizenship messages paid for from the Board of Crime Control grant. On April 21 assembly by Jason DeShaw, country musician, with a message about suicide awareness. Scheduled through Friends of the Library. Finishing up Board of Crime Control grant that pays for ski and fishing trips, advertising, fun run, assemblies, etc. It's a competitive year to year grant. Use to keep kids busy with activities that are organized and fun.

Follow-up on Jump rope for Heart snack packs: Stephanie and Vashti made healthy, gluten-free snacks: jerky, dark chocolate mint, veggie straws, dried peas, popcorn. Leftover bags and mints used at Radley for testing kids. Mr. Ireland brought a thank you card. We raised about \$4500.

Follow-up on Tiger Gear donation to schools: Ms. Miller was going to buy \$60 of gear, so PTO donated about \$200 worth of Tiger Gear to Eastgate, Radley and EVMS. Rival donated some extra gear to the PTO worth \$226.

Budget: Outstanding reimbursements totaling around \$900. Amy made motion to approve expenditures. Deb seconded. No one opposed.

Jason DeShaw, mental illness speaker: \$150 to \$200 is needed from PTO to pay for this assembly. Suicide awareness is important and needed in our community. Amy made a motion to pay the \$200. Jamie seconded. No one opposed.

Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels: Boys vs. girls competition at Radley (March Madness).

Out of the Darkness Campus Walk: April 29 at City Hall, walking to all schools in East Helena. The PTO is helping with the registration table. Volunteers needed. Organized by American Association for Suicide Prevention to raise public awareness. Mr. Rispens will get links to post to Facebook.

VFW Easter Egg Hunt: Bond information table will be set up at the Easter Egg Hunt. PTO volunteers needed.

Good Behavior Game: Training for Eastgate teachers for suicide prevention. They needed \$16,000, funding just came through from BC/BS. Focused on kindergarten through 2nd grade. Helps kids identify their emotions and emotional regulation. Jess is a volunteer with the Americorp Vista program. She acts as the district's liaison for suicide prevention.

Bake Sale to Raise funds for Suicide Prevention Programs in the EHPS Distric: So far, 40 parents said they would be willing to bake, and 10 parents said they would help. Discussion of when to do it. The thought was it would be best to “piggy back” on another event, such as parent/teacher conference, movie night, fun run, etc.

PTO Movie Night: Friday, April 7 at 6:30 at Eastgate. Have a table for suicide prevention and a table for bond information. Board of Crime Control money can be used for the popcorn. Mr. Rispens will order some for the event.

Bond: The process has been 4 or 5 years in the making. Last month board adopted the language that will be on the ballots. The basic plan is to put a building on property north of Radley. District owns 50 acres through the trust and Asarco bankruptcy. The plan is to put an elementary school with 1st and 2nd graders with the possibility that we will expand Kinder Cubs. The building is being designed to house more than 300 students. It’s being set up so it could be a K-5 school. The plans are coming from the architects, and they’re working with them on traffic issues. Tables will have flyers and informational materials. The school district can’t promote the bond. There’s another group set up (Yes for East Helena Kids) to promote the bond. This group is strictly for the bond issue. They’re trying to get funding from MEA/MFT for yard signs, etc. We can all try to create awareness. This is good timing to pursue bonding, because old bond will kick in right after the old bond ends. Estimated tax increase would be about \$5.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next meeting is annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00pm in the EVMS Library.

Requesting Nominations for the following 2017-18 positions:

President	Gift Giving Tree Coordinators	Vice President
Octoberfest Coordinators	Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator	Secretary
Treasurer	Tiger Gear Coordinator	Box Top Submission Coordinator
PTO Movie Night Coordinator	Bulletin Boards	Teacher Appreciation
(2) Eastgate Reps	Teacher Grant Coordinator	(2) EVMS Reps
Field Fun Day Coordinator	(3) Radley Reps	Fundraiser Coordinator