

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization (EHPTO)
Meeting Minutes by Stacy Anderson
February 7, 2017

Attendees: Jill Miller, Joe McMahon, Dan Rispens, Ron Whitmoyer, Stacy Anderson, Erica Johnston, Amy Strainer, Trish Klock, Stephanie Higgins, Clancy Casey, Mindy Schubert, Vashti Teders, Jess Hegstrom, Shandi Hayes, Megan Surginer, Erik Pritchard, KD Jones, Deb Butzlaff

Welcome and Introductions

Principal Updates:

Jill Miller, Eastgate: Teacher dinner was a hit. Theme Fridays for “I Love to Read” month. The annual Build a Book is February 10. Eastgate is having a reading challenge. If the kids make the reading goal that Mrs. Lunday has set for them, Mrs. Miller will have to dress a potbelly pig with whatever items Mrs. Lunday brings at the assembly on March 1st. It is Paraprofessional Appreciation Week. Teachers and staff are finding ways to say “thank you”. February 27, a small group of teachers/staff, along with Mrs. Miller and Mr. McMahon, will be traveling to Butte to learn more about a program called The Good Behavior Game. This program is geared towards teaching the students self-regulation and teamwork, and has been proven to have a significant impact on reducing at-risk behaviors. Class picture day is February 16th. February 28th is family game night from 6:30pm-7:15 with the theme being math games.

Joe McMahon, Radley: Teacher dinner was well received and delicious. Radley’s first robotics team competed in Bozeman recently against 75 teams, grades 4th- 8th, from across the state and came in 12th! The team consisted of two 4th graders and eight 5th graders. PTO funds will be used to purchase a new robot for next year’s competition. 4th graders will be going to Rimini to snowshoe February 10th. Class picture day is February 15th. Mrs. Dolphay will be using PTO funds to buy 25 copies of Rain Reign. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. McMahon and Mr. Rispens have recently discussed and come to the agreement that new bleachers are needed at EVMS and have named this as a big ticket item for next year’s fundraiser. NAEP testing is happening now. Mrs. Dunlap was given the award for Paraprofessional of the Year for region IV, which is made up of 12 counties!

Dan Rispens, EVMS: Teachers and staff loved the dinner provided on conference night. 8th graders are starting the registration process for Helena High. The entire 8th grade class will be going to HHS for orientation. The informational parent night will be February 13th at 7:30pm in the EVMS cafeteria. Grade level ski trips happening this month. There was a safety assembly with staff from the Great Divide. Many thanks to the folks at Great Divide for all the hard work they put in to the school ski days! February 10th, the 7th graders are ice fishing in the morning with help from the FWP and then bowling in the afternoon. 8th graders are doing the NAEP testing. A team of students, along with Mrs. Walsh, from EVMS will be going to Great Falls to participate in a math competition. The third session of the enrichment programs are going on now. Info about what is offered is available on the district website. One highlight this session is the safe sitter course. 2 sessions will be offered. It is for 5th grade and up. Our school nurse, Mrs. Bauch, became certified to be a Safe Sitter instructor. 6 spots are still left for the second session, which is the end of February. Let Mr. Rispens know if you are interested! The archery team is also currently meeting after school. Approximately 30-40 kids are participating. They meet weekly with Mr. Samson. They will be in a competition in February up Davis Gulch at the archery range. Friday night ski trips are still very popular. New this year is Friday trips to the Stonetree Climbing center.

Ron Whitmoyer: Spoke about the crowding problems with Eastgate and Radley schools. Mrs. Dusenberry's computer class is in the hallway at Radley. This year, there was thought about having a mobile classroom outside of Radley. The 3 schools are not big enough for what is projected to come in the future with the new home building that is going on in two subdivisions in our district. Between these two subdivisions, 73 new homes were built this past year. For every new house built in the district, we get 0.2 kids. Our school district is in a crisis situation. An informational pamphlet was distributed to the attendees. These pamphlets are available at the schools.

Jess Hegstrom, AmeriCorps VISTA, Suicide Prevention: Spoke about introducing the Good Behavior Game at the PIR on June 9th. The program is approximately \$16,000. Grants are being looked at, one from the Treacy Foundation and one from BCBS, which will possibly take care of all the cost. She spoke of also having a community tie-in with a bake sale or other fundraiser to involve parents and families. Discussion was had to possibly use PTO movie night as a time where donations could be accepted for this program. Amy asked that the group think about other fundraising ideas and bring them to the next PTO meeting. Jess Hegstrom can be reached at jhegstrom@ehps.k12.us or 406-830-7439 with any questions or suggestions.

Debrief on December/January activities: Clancy and Mindy spoke of the dart tournament donation. They purchased coats, hats, gloves, winter clothing, etc. for kids in the district. They also were given a list of gifts hadn't been returned yet from the giving tree tags and purchased those items, along with items for stocking stuffers. JCPenney and Shopko gave these folks discounts on the items they were purchasing because of the nature of their shopping purchases!

Budget/Expense reimbursement: Erica states that ending balance at the end of January is just under \$20,000 with \$5,000 reserved for savings, outstanding checks and anticipated expenditures and income. We should end the year with approximately \$14,000 in the bank, plus the \$5,000 reserve. She states we should think about opening a savings account for the reserve. Expenditures needing approval: Rivals Athletics for Tiger gear t-shirts for \$2,776.00 and reimbursement for Amy Strainer for \$50.56 for Mrs. Fitzgerald's classroom pizza party as they collected the most box tops for the first half of the school year. Motion was unanimously approved. Other than the annual report and filing of the taxes, things are quiet. Tiger gear might bring in approximately \$500.00.

Tiger Gear: Shirts were sold during EVMS conferences. The girls sold \$156.00 worth of shirts! Another table could be set up during parent night at new kindergarten parent informational night in May. Website is being developed.

Box Tops: Mrs. Fitzgerald's classroom won the box top challenge for Eastgate. The classroom had a pizza party. Mrs. Jones mentioned a March Madness girls v boys theme for box top collection at Radley. Boys won last year, this might be the year for the girls! She spoke of the PTO helping out with the purchasing of prizes in the past for the friendly competition.

Teacher Appreciation: Teachers loved the ornaments that Ericka had done during Christmas. Baskets were dropped off at the schools as well.

Out of the Darkness-Campus Walk: Heather is helping with coordinating this event. She was wondering about PTO helping with a registration table. Volunteers will be needed.

PTO Movie night: Movie this year will be Trolls. Date to be announced later. The movie night will be held at Eastgate this year.

Jump Rope for Heart: Vashti and Stephanie are organizing and will be putting together some snack packs. Jump Rope for Heart is being held the week of Presidents Day at Radley and Eastgate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Next meeting will be March 7th, 2017.