

East Helena Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting minutes by Stacy Anderson
October 4, 2016

Attendees: Adrienne Simonson, Angie Howell, Marya Warren, Joe McMahon, KD Jones, Stephanie Higgins, Lisa Larson, Lee Musgjerd, Sarah Sandau, Jill Miller, Deborah Butzlaff, Caitlyn Patera, Megan Surginer, Braylee Lervold, Heather Ireland, Erica Johnston, Stacy Anderson, Elizabeth Vig, Erik Pritchard, Moriah Bucy, Andrea Eckerson

Welcome and Introductions

Vacant Positions: There are currently 2 Radley Rep positions open.

Principal Updates:

Jill Miller, Eastgate: K-1 students are adapting well to using iPads. Ratio of iPad to student is 1:1. Tech fee requirements for use of the iPads was new this year, but no major problems noted with collecting the fee. Eastgate open house was September 22. Good attendance from families. 400+ hot dog meals were served for a total of approximately \$1500. Picture day was on September 26 and went very smooth, despite it also being early release day! Great American Fundraiser kickoff was 10/3 and the assembly was well received. Walk to School Day is October 5 with free breakfast for students and families. New for Eastgate this year is Adopt a Species. October 19 is the day the school will find out what species they will be adopting. No school October 20-21 for teachers' state convention. Red Ribbon parade is October 26. Parent/Teacher conferences are November 14th and 16th.

Joe McMahon, Radley: Picture day was September 30th and went well with 540+ students getting pictures taken. Adopt a species assembly is October 7, where they will be finding out what species they will be adopting. Student of the Month assembly is Monday, October 10th. KD and Joe report that the Radley Cheer-readers is very popular and they will be performing at the October 10th assembly. Students are receiving morning snacks of fruits and vegetables and this is going well. Parent/Teacher conferences are November 14th and 16th.

Erik Pritchard, EVMS (On behalf of Mr. Rispens): Basketball tryouts start on October 4th. Volleyball and Cross Country are currently going strong. Erik spoke of the Tiger Pride program, which recognizes students for doing good deeds. Well received and enjoyed by the students. Parent /Teacher conferences are November 8th and 10th.

Great American Fundraiser: Angie reports kickoff assemblies for fundraiser was held October 3rd (Eastgate) and 4th (Radley), with this year's theme being Emoji's. Assemblies went smoother this year. She needs more volunteers at Radley for Emoji distribution. Heather will put a request out on the PTO/school Facebook page for volunteers. Money is due with orders on Monday, October 17th. Teachers are being asked to count the orders/money for their classroom and initial each order form when completed. Mrs. Bender is leading the group of

EVMS students to help with distribution of Emoji's and candy during lunch. Heather is heading up the volunteers for Eastgate and Angie is heading up the volunteers for Radley. Checks are to be made out to EHPTO (East Helena Parent Teacher Organization). Products will be delivered November 17th. Please contact Angie if you are able to volunteer on this day.

Budget/Treasury Updates: Erica distributed copies of Draft EHPTO budget for school year 2016/2017. Great American Fundraiser is the biggest fundraiser for EHPTO. Box Tops also an important fundraiser for the district. Discussion was had to look at and potentially update emergency buckets throughout all 3 schools in the district. Draft budget for emergency buckets is currently \$150. Discussion was also brought up to combine the budget for teachers dinners rather than having a fall/spring budget and combining miscellaneous supplies and Kindergarten orientation to one budget line. Heather presented a motion to increase the budget for the emergency bucket updates to \$300, combine teacher dinners and combine miscellaneous supplies/Kindergarten orientation. Lee seconded the motion, no opposed. Motion carried. Erica also distributed a draft thank you letter to send to those who donate to our organization through the State of Montana Charitable Giving Campaign. The campaign to select organizations to donate to is going on now. Donations occur through payroll deductions for calendar year 2017.

Octoberfest and costume exchange: Lisa spoke of details and needs for these events. Costume exchange is October 28 from 6-8pm in the Eastgate gym. Donated costumes will be accepted at Twisted Bliss Boutique, Stahley Engineering, Boilermakers in East Helena and at the schools. Octoberfest is Saturday October 29th from 6-8pm in the Eastgate gym. The event is free, but donations of canned food will gladly be accepted. EVMS middle schoolers will be volunteering their help. There will be games and a haunted house. Adult volunteers are needed, as well. Contact Lisa Larson, Clancy Casey or Mindy Schubert if you can help out.

Gift Giving Tree: Trees will be set up prior to Parent/Teacher conferences. 40 kids were gifted last year, but Lisa reports that more can be added for this school year. Lisa spoke of past problems with the tags missing on the giving tree at EVMS. It was decided to forgo the giving tree tags at EVMS and only have giving trees tags at Eastgate and Radley. Lisa said having a volunteer sit at the trees during conferences and sign out the tags was very helpful last year. She needs volunteers to do the same this year. Please contact her if you can help with this.

PT Conference Dinners: Heather opened discussion to decide menu for this year's teacher dinners during conferences. Teacher dinner at EVMS will be November 8 and Eastgate/Radley dinner will be November 16. It was agreed by all to do soups for this year's menu, which has been a popular choice in the past for the fall session of conferences.

Guest Speaker Andrea Eckerson from East Helena Public Library: The East Helena library has 5 computers that are well used during after school hours. The library offers activities for kids to participate in and is a safe place for them to go. Thursdays is Teen Night at the library. Andrea discussed partnering with the PTO to offer themed events throughout the year for kids and

adults. This year's Big Read book is "A Wizard of Earthsea" and she had books on hand to distribute to those interested.

Tiger Gear: Heather led the discussion to decide if there is interest to continue the Tiger Gear program. Luke Duran has designed 5 logo options, which were distributed during the meeting. Heather will put out a post on the EHPTO Facebook page, with the design options, for a vote. Decision deadline is November 1st. Amy is working on starting a committee. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Amy.

Box Tops/Campbell's Soup Labels: Lee reports the latest submission was received. Points are currently low, however she did receive a fair amount of labels recently. Schools and classrooms are still competing for the most tops/labels. There is a new smartphone app for Box Tops, which can potentially increase the amount received. Please see the app or ask Lee if you have questions on this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st at 6:00pm in the EVMS Library.