



Minutes

EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL MEETING

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Attendance: Abigail Tumang, Angel Weiss, Jessica Hornick, Claudia Lopez, Karen Gavrilovic, Duke Gavrilovic, Frank Santoro, Erick Tumang, Judy Warchol, Erin T. Stein, Kathy Byron.

- 1. Call to order/Welcome: Claudia called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- 2. President’s Report:

- A. **Skokie Public Library PTA President's Meeting-** Claudia Lopez attended the SPL PTA President's meeting on November 16th. It the first time SPL reached out to the PTA to see how we can collaborate. Different ideas were brought up including use of STEAM kits at events, Beanstack,book donations, and borrowing their different costumes that might coordinate with our own events. They are planning to host another President's meeting to give everyone a chance to share information on how each group is reaching out to school families and meeting the needs of the diversity in our schools.
- B. **Referendum Passing-** Last Tuesday November 8, a referendum question was on the election ballot asking for the authority to issue bonds for the purpose of building a new school. The following are the official results:

Ballots Cast	Yes Votes	No Votes
1,994	1,155	625

Our referendum passed by the highest percentage of any referendum in the state. The PTA is proud to have supported this referendum. Our community voted not only for a new school, but for a brighter future for our students. As we move forward there will be much to do.

We encourage you to stay informed with the planning and design process. **Please try to attend our school board meetings, which are held on the second Monday of every month.** These monthly meetings will include updates on the new building. **Thursday December 8th at 7pm** there will be a focus group meeting, in the school library, for those who would like to participate in the process of designing our new school. Babysitting will be provided. The professional partners (architects, engineers, contractors, etc) will be leading the meeting and will walk through the process, including community groups that will be needed and the timeline.

We thank you all for your support and for coming out to vote! We congratulate the district for passing this referendum and making East Prairie a 21st century learning environment.

- 3. Treasurer’s Report
  - A. Monthly report-November
    - i. Cash on hand 11/30/2016 \$9,836.68
  - B. We have received our insurance documents, so if anyone needs a copy for an event, they can request it from Angel.

- 4. Secretary’s Report:

- A. Approve October and November minutes. Copies will be handed out, please review briefly before voting.
  - B. Jessica made a motion to approve the October minutes. Abby seconded. October minutes are approved.
  - C. Jessica made a motion to approve the November minutes. Frank seconded. November minutes are approved.
5. School Report: Ms. Stein made a report.
- A. Please attend the new school focus group on Thursday. Community participation is essential.
  - B. Cooking and creating with the Chinese culture is tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6 pm.
    - i. 12 families have volunteered to provide food and the school will also be providing some food.
    - ii. There will be a craft and some other cultural activities.
  - C. The Primary concert is next Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. And the Winter concert is Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.
  - D. Please take the 5 essentials survey! We need a high parental participation in order to get the full data report. Currently have only ~30 parents who have completed it. The older students and the teachers also complete the survey. This survey gives feedback on what parents, teachers and students are thinking and feeling about the school. Visit [survey.5-essentials.org](http://survey.5-essentials.org) to take the survey. [Duke G. mentioned that the laptops that were available for taking the survey during the parent-teacher conferences were very useful and suggested that they provide the laptops during Thursday's meeting as well. Ms. Stein agreed that is a great idea!]
6. Committee Reports:
- A. Book Fair-Kathy Byron-the Book Fair is next week. We are all set to go. Jessica and Kathy will work together for the teacher preview breakfast on Wednesday morning. Claudia will call Starbucks for a donation. We have \$1097 in Scholastic dollars to spend. We are planning on giving each classroom and any staff that uses books in learning \$10 to spend at the book fair. Kathy will provide a list to Ms. Stein for approval before distributing vouchers. We need volunteers for Thursday evening after the primary concert. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathy Byron @ [kbyroneps.pta@gmail.com](mailto:kbyroneps.pta@gmail.com).
  - B. Cultural Arts- Spirit of the Eagle with Jon Jordan went very well. The kids were engaged and the teepee was very cool. I stayed for one of 3 presentations and took pictures.

The next assembly for PreK-2 is Wed Jan 25 at 1:45-2:30pm. The Science Alliance will be presenting "Reptomania". Deposit has been made and the contract is signed. We had to replace the "Mouse Trap machine" assembly with the Science Alliance because of a latex allergy in the school. Smarty pants is known as the Balloon guy and he was very understanding about the allergy.

The last scheduled assembly will be for grades 6-8 on Mon 2-6-17 at 11:20am. Chicago Dance Crash will put on a dance performance. Ms. DeCamp is friend's with Mark Hackman and this dance company.

Here is the projected spending for Cultural arts committee:

Spirit of the Eagle \$650

The Science Alliance \$575  
Chicago Dance crash \$850

Ms. Stein expressed gratitude that the PTA and the school have been able to work so well together to provide meaningful assemblies that engage the students with the curriculum. Having events that the teachers, staff and parents are excited about makes the experience more impactful for the children.

- c. Family Movie Night – There were about 175 people in attendance to watch Finding Nemo. Thank you to Kim Uribe for coordinating this event. We would like to thank our volunteers: Erick Tumang for his help with the movie set up, Roni Sung, May Jamil, Sue Larson, & Gus Kuman for their help with the popcorn and pizza sales. We did have a couple issues with bottle flipping and running around the gym. The committee was considering inviting only K-3rd students next year.  
Thank you to Dr. Madl for being present at the event as well as school board member Ignacio Lopez, for talking to the families about the referendum.  
There was a brief discussion of how to minimize disruptions due to children's behavior. Ms. Stein expressed that it is difficult for teachers and administration to know how much they should discipline children at a PTA event after school hours. And there were several suggestions about ways to make it clear to parents that they must supervise their children during this event (and any children that they have brought along) by both a larger note on the event flyer and an announcement at the start of the movie. Additionally, if behavior is disruptive, the movie will be paused and parents will be asked to collect their children. Claudia L. mentioned that having a microphone would be helpful. Duke G. suggested that a sign up or tickets might help better estimate attendance in order to better estimate pizza.
- d. Fundraising – (Cindie Anderson, Judy Warchol)
  - i. Fall Fundraiser-Yankee Candle-The Fall fundraiser went very well. 51 students participated (19 online for total of 42 orders, 32 on paper). Most of the orders are in but a few items are on back-order. Once everything is in, orders will be sorted and distributed. We made approximately \$2300.
  - ii. Spring Fundraiser will be the Read-a-thon. Judy W. described the idea for the Read-a-thon fundraiser and how it will correspond with D.E.A.R. Week in April. The idea would be that students would ask for sponsorship from friends and family (e.g. \$1 per book read) and would report their books/minutes read every week. There would be weekly participation incentives (not tied to a dollar amount) and larger prizes to be raffled at the end of the event. We would ask Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, and Staples for donations of e-readers or similar items for raffle.
- e. Panther Days-Panther Days at Dengeos was a great success! We received \$278.24 back from Dengeos. They said that we had a great turnout, and that was a very good amount to get back. Thank you to everyone who participated and to Dengeos for their participation.
- f. Fun Fair
- g. Gym Clothes
- h. Health and Safety
- i. Ice Cream Social
- j. Membership
- k. Reflections- (Denise Damasco) PTA Reflections theme this year was "What Is Your Story?". The East Prairie representative entries have been chosen. Each entry was evaluated by 4 judges. We

had 70 entries this year. We were able to advance a maximum of 8 per category to the district level. Entries have been sent to Kathy Meitzer, the District 21 rep. We should hear from her in January regarding any students who are advancing to the state level. Dani DeCamp and Andrea Smeeton will be notifying their students who are advancing.

- L. Room Parents/volunteers
  - M. School Supply Prepacks
  - N. Spiritwear
  - O. Teacher appreciation week
  - P. Website and Communications –
  - Q. Partners for Learning
  - R. Volunteers- Volunteers needed- Mrs. Wydmanksi is looking for individuals who enjoy working with children and helping them learn. Individuals interested would work during school hours, with pre-k through grade 8 students on basic skills in reading, math, and ESL. If interested, please contact Mrs. W. via email at [ewydmanksi@eps73.net](mailto:ewydmanksi@eps73.net).
7. Unfinished Business-
8. New Business
- A. Magnet Sales- Should we begin selling EPS magnets beginning in January? The consensus was that since the magnets exist, we might as well try to sell them. Claudia will work with Karen G. to tweak the flyers from last year and send them out in January. Magnets will be \$3 or 2 for \$5.
  - B. Cultural Night- Cooking and creating with the Chinese culture is tomorrow Wednesday, December 7th at 6pm. Come to EPS to learn about the Chinese culture by trying new dishes and making crafts.
  - C. PTO Expo-PTO Expo will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9 am to 2 pm, at Pheasant Run (4051 E. Main Street St. Charles, IL). They have lots of new fundraising companies, interactive school performers, and enrichment programs for us to check out. PTO experts will also be back delivering brand-new information sessions for all attendees. And, of course, the day is always full of samples, freebies, and prizes from exhibitors. Register before Jan. 31st (<https://www.ptotoday.com/events/chicago>) and you'll be entered into our early bird drawing – where you'll be eligible to win more than \$450 worth of prizes. That includes \$250 cash and a gift basket from Yankee Candle worth more than \$200. If you are interested in staying overnight, visit the Pheasant Run Resort (<http://www.pheasantrun.com/>) by by 3/20/17 to reserve your room. Don't forget to mention code "PTO Today Parent Group Expo".
  - D. Duke Gavrilovic will be running for school board next year. He introduced himself and talked about why he would be a good asset for the school board. He is currently collecting signatures to get on the ballot.
  - E. Erick Tumang will also be running for school board next year. He talked briefly about his experience working with the PTA and how his work experience give him skills that would be useful to the school board, including budget and procurement. He is also collecting signatures to get on the ballot.
9. Adjournment: Claudia adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm. The next meeting is set for January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please Join Us!