



## Minutes

### EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL MEETING

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Attendance: Claudia Lopez, Kristina Nickels, Duke Gavrilovic, Ioana Salajanu, Jessica Hornick, Angel Weiss, Abby Tumang, Jill Kempner, Teri Madl, Erin Stein, Iowana Dobek

1. Call to order/Welcome: Abby called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. President's Report:
  - A. School class picture update- Class photo proofs were received, edited by the teachers and sent back to Lifetouch about 3 weeks ago. Parents should have received these class photos by now. The new format was chosen because it gave the students and parents the opportunity for retakes, and if a student missed picture day, this new format has the flexibility to get a student photo into the class picture. Finally, since we do get new students throughout the beginning of the year, it also give these new students a chance to identify with their new classmates.
  - B. Skokie Public Library News-  
The library is now offering Homework Help on Tuesdays (through May 2) from 4:00-5:30pm for grades 1-8. This will be a time for students who are looking for a quiet space to do homework or have questions about an assignment can drop-in to work independently, or sign up for a 15-minute consultation with a volunteer homework helper. Consultations provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - C. Also, faculty and staff from East Prairie Elementary School will read their favorite stories on Wednesday March 8th from 6:30-7:30 at the Skokie Public Library. This event is for grades K-5 and will be followed by light refreshments. There will be two teachers reading.
  - D. PTA Conventions and Expos
    - i. Illinois PTA Convention – April 7-8 in Lisle, IL. Illinois PTA has planned an event filled with networking, training, election of new officers, award presentations, workshops and exhibits intended to provide your PTA with the necessary tools to soar to new heights. In partnership with National PTA, representation from National will be on-hand all weekend to share thoughts and insights, to listen, and respond to your questions. Early bird registration until March 6<sup>th</sup>. Convention registration fees are included in the PTA budget.
    - ii. PTO Expo-A one day expo for parent groups and booster clubs. Come meet fundraising companies, school performers and enrichment programs and get tons of ideas. Great prizes, free tshirt and tote bag full of goodies. April 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Charles, IL.
    - iii. National PTA Convention - The 2017 National PTA Convention & Expo will be Thursday, June 22 to Sunday, June 25 in Las Vegas. Over 1,500 of the nation's most influential leaders in education, as well as parents and experts will be at convention. Registration is open to PTA members and any professional interested in the education and well-being of children. Please let us know if anyone is interested in attending.
3. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Monthly report-February: Cash on hand 2/1 \$10,296.26; 2/28 \$8974.00 See attached report for details.
4. Secretary's Report:

- A. Minutes from February meeting were distributed for review. Duke G. motioned to approve the minutes; Jill K. seconded. Minutes were approved.
5. School Report-Ms. Stein gave the school report.
- A. Friday is East Prairie Spirit Day! Wear your EPS Spiritwear or blue and white!
  - B. Friday is also the middle school rec night.
  - C. Lunch update: Ms. Stein has met with Tommy, the manager, as well as the owner of Organic Life. They talked about ways to gather feedback from the students and find out what is working and not working. Ms. Stein has planned student focus groups for Thursday with the Intermediate and the Middle school. Tommy and Ms. Stein will be present to speak to students and ask them about what they like and don't like, and what they would like to see. Ms. Stein said that Organic Life has already started to make improvements (for example, hamburgers will now be served with lettuce, tomato and pickle) and wants to make sure the students are satisfied. Abby T. suggested that there be some way for students to give feedback, such as a comment box. Discussion continued about the benefits of hearing from the students and responding to their requests and concerns. lowana D. asked about health department checks and Ms. Stein mentioned that EPS has just successfully completed a health department compliance audit. Dr. Madl mentioned that the Parent Teacher Advisory Council (PTAC) will be tasked with ongoing evaluation of the lunch food.
6. Committee Reports:
- A. Bike Safety
  - B. Box Tops
  - C. Calendar
  - D. Cultural Arts
  - E. Family Art Nights - Over 45 students and their families attended the two sessions of family art night. They all had a great time designing, creating, and painting their fantastic masks. Thank you to Tom Warchol and Karen G. for all their time and dedication to a fun family evening.
  - F. Family Picnic
  - G. Family Reading Night – Coming up on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm. This years theme is Stay Positive and Inspirational. Volunteer readers will be reading stories and there will be light refreshments in the small gym following the reading sessions.
  - H. Fundraising – Our spring fundraiser will be a Read-a-Thon-students will get pledges for reading and there will be weekly participation prizes. Students that participate for all three weeks will be entered into a raffle for one of three Amazon Kindle Fire tablets (one tablet each for primary, intermediate and middle school). Information will be coming home after Spring Break.
  - I. Panther Days – Next Panther Days is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Village Inn! Please support us by dining at Village on March 23<sup>rd</sup>!
  - J. Gym Clothes
  - K. Health and Safety
  - L. Ice Cream Social
  - M. Membership
  - N. Room Parents/volunteers

- O. School Supply Prepacks
- P. Spiritwear-There was discussion as to whether we should run another spiritwear order for the Spring. Duke G. suggested we offer jackets or tote bags. The Spiritwear committee will discuss and report back next month.
- Q. Teacher appreciation week-Coming up the first week of May. More information will be forthcoming.
- R. Website and Communications
- S. Partners for Learning
- T. Volunteers

7. Unfinished Business-

A. Referendum News-

As many of you know our referendum to build a new school passed with nearly 65% of the voters approving. This referendum to build our new school has now become House Bill 760. It has passed out of committee and will now go to the full House for debate and consideration. It passed out of committee by an 8-1 vote!

Currently we need 60 votes in the house to get HB760 passed. There are 67 democrats in the house. We encourage all of our PTA members to contact some and/or all of the following House reps to ask them for their support in advancing HB760.

Laura Fine  
 repfine@gmail.com  
 847-998-4194

Elaine Nekritz  
 enekritz@repnekritz.org  
 847-229-5499

Marty Moylan  
 staterepmoylan@gmail.com  
 847-635-6821

Robyn Gabel  
 staterepgabel@robyngavel.com  
 847-424-9898

Rita Mayfield  
 no email  
 847-599-2800

8. New Business-

- A. Ioana Salajanu introduced the PTA to International Children's Day, a celebration of children that is widely celebrated in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world and promote the objectives in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Ioana is part of an organization, Children's International, that hosts an annual Children's Day celebration on the first Sunday in June. Each year, the theme of the celebration draws from the UN charter. This years theme is

education. This event is completely free to children and has grown to have more than 1000 attendees. It relies on volunteers to be successful and Ioana is asking for PTA members that are interested in helping out. The event will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 6 pm at St. Pauls in Morton Grove. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Claudia L. or Abby T. or Ioana S.

9. Adjournment-Please join us for our next meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm! Abby T. adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.