



Minutes
EAST PRAIRIE PTA GENERAL MEETING
October 6, 2015

Attendance: Claudia Lopez, Chris Oh, Mark Lojo, Kristine Hernandez, Niki Antonakos, Bhautik Kapudia, Kasima Imomovich, Jenny Hsu, Tim Berlinghof, Karen Gavrilovic, Erin Stein, Angel Weiss, Abby Tumang, Erick Tumang, Randall Cling

1. Call to order/Welcome: Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm
2. Secretary's Report:
 - A. Supplies: We recently restocked the PTA closet with new supplies. There are plenty of office supplies that the PTA committee heads will find useful. Please help yourself to what you need for your event. Please also remember to be courteous and put everything back in place.
 - B. Volunteer Lanyards- Thank you to Angel Weiss for creating and printing out new tags for our volunteer lanyards. They have our PTA many hands logo and look great! Committee heads, please be sure to use them at your events.
3. Treasurer's Report – Balance on hand for beginning of 9/1/2015 - \$6484.97 ; Book balance 9/30/2015 - \$6512.01. Line items were gone over for the monthly statement.
4. President's Report -
 - A. The new bus company will be coming at the November meeting to talk about their services and answer any questions people may have. Two members of the EPS Foundation will also be coming to the meeting to go over what the Foundation does for the school.
 - B. Thank you to Rachel Coppola, our Fun Fair Chair, and the rest of the committee: Rose Doyiakos, Gus Kuman, Beth Negronida, Coleen Sharkey and Lisa LaPata, for all of their work in organizing a very successful and fun event for our community! Thanks also to everyone who attended!
5. Vice President's Report -
 - A. Bookmobile event: Last Tuesday the Skokie public library held their bookmobile open house. The PTA worked collaboratively with them to host this event. It was very well attended and families were excited to jump on the bookmobile, some for the very first time! Thank you to Skokie Public Library for all that you do for our East Prairie families!
 - B. Friendship and Fun parent/tot class- SPL, EPS teachers & parents have worked collaboratively to create a story-time class for children ages 0-3. This class was designed to promote community awareness, celebrate our diversity, and early literacy through stories, songs, crafts, and chants. Classes are every Wednesday September 30th – October 28th. The class will resume on Wednesday November 18th – December 16th. Thank you to Mrs. Wydmanski, Mrs. La Pata, Holly Jin, Nahren Koshaba, Saima Tariq, and Claudia Lopez for their time and commitment to the EPS families
6. School Report
 - A. Mrs. Stein -
 - i. EPS night at the Skokie Public Library: Wednesday October 7th at 7pm. Mrs. Mehr and Mrs. deBettencourt will read their favorite stories, followed by refreshments. This is a drop-in event for grades K–5.
 - ii. Facebook & Twitter posting – starting small, but will be posting more on social media to get the community involved a little more.

- iii. Walk & Bike to School Day – 10/7/15 - partnering with the PTA to get moving and get the students involved.
 - iv. Thank you for the Fun Fair and their help
 - v. Target will be ending their program to send schools checks from parent/community red card purchases in 2016
- B. Mr. Berlinghof
- i. IGSMA Solo Contest will be hosted by East Prairie this year – scheduled for February 20, 2016 (8am – 2pm). School will be open to about 12 schools, with about 300 students. They compete against themselves (not against each other). Looking for volunteers to help out: set-up rooms, concession sales (not required, but something to look into), direct traffic around school, etc. Looking for about 50 volunteers, parents and students. Would probably need someone to coordinate volunteers as well.

7. Committee Reports

- A. Book Fair – will take place in December during the primary winter concert (December 9-10-11), volunteers needed (set up, helping students shop, running the cash registers, etc). Please contact Angel Weiss or Kathy Byron if you are interested.
- B. Cultural Arts – the Earth Dome Assembly is coming for grades 6-8 on Wed, Oct 7 from 10:30a – 12:20p. “Marimbamania” for grades K-2 is in the works, dates are being worked on. Grade 3-5 assembly is still open for ideas, looking for a dance or music theme. One idea in mind, but nothing set in stone. Ideas are welcome!
- C. Family Art Nights – Family Art Nights for 2015 – 2016 will be announced soon.
- D. Family Dance – The PreK– 5th grade family dance will be held on Friday October 16th, from 6pm – 8pm. This is a new PTA event - Erick Tumang is the Committee Head, we have some great volunteers on board, but are always happy for more help. DJ and selfie station are confirmed. Food will be pizza, salad, pasta, and dessert. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Erick (Erick.tumang@gmail.com). Please RSVP by email or send in your forms ASAP! We would also like to invite the teachers to come as well.
- E. Family Movie Night – November 13th if anyone would like to join the committee. Kim Uribe is in charge of this event.
- F. Family Safety - October 7th- Walk/Bike to school day: PTA will be outside with music and asking bus riders to do some exercises in lieu of walking/riding bikes. Thank you also to Student Leaders and Ms. Mertz for making signs promoting the event around the school.
- G. Fundraising
 - i. Recommendation for the fall fundraiser - KidsStuff Coupon Book (in place of the gift wrapping catalog). \$25 for the book, which has multiple coupons for activities, restaurants, stores. PTA would receive 50% of the sales for each book. Discussion around this option includes the responsibility of who handles the books, asking the teachers to keep track of something new. The coupon books have been tabled as of now, but may be considered down the line, possibly as the new spring fundraiser?
 - ii. Some items for the overall calendar: Panther Days (Benny Payne has been making contacts and has a tentative calendar)
 - iii. Option of doing the gift card fundraiser around Thanksgiving, to avoid the book fair? These would be prepaid cards, either electronic or actual cards. As an example, PTA would receive 3% back from Target gift card purchases.

- iv. Spirit Wear – Have about 100 orders and an estimated delivery date. We may need a few volunteers to help distribute the orders to classrooms on the delivery date (the orders will already be prepacked)
 - v. The timing of the fall fundraiser would have to be out in the next few weeks (October 26th as the “drop date”). This will be tabled for after the general meeting for more thorough discussion.
 - vi. Another option brought up again was just donating a set amount versus asking to participate in catalog sales, etc. Some parents said that they would rather donate instead of being asked to sell catalog items.
- H. Fun Fair – Thank you to all the volunteers (parents, teachers, and Student Leaders) for helping out with this great event! We had over 40 volunteers!
- I. Room Parents: Room Parent Volunteer Information - All room parent contact lists went out last week. Thank you to all the room parents who have volunteered their time to our classrooms. The first party of the school year will be on Friday October 30th. If you are going to be volunteering in the school, please let the teachers know so that Mrs. Locher is aware at the front desk. Also, you will need to have a background check completed prior to your volunteering time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Claudia Lopez.
8. Unfinished Business
- A. Sidewalk stand purchase- New Sidewalk Sign- The PTA was able to purchase our sidewalk sign through Signarama in Skokie. The total cost for the sidewalk sign and for the PTA meeting signage was \$268.20. We will acquire signs for all other events as they come up on the calendar. Thank you to Karen Gavrilovic, who designed the meeting sign for us! Thank you to Kathy Byron, Claudia Lopez, and Chris Oh for working together on this purchase.
9. New Business – none for this month
10. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, 2015 in the school library.