

EILMS General PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016
Location: EILMS Media Center

Attendance: Lisa Dush, Bob Rutter, Anna Gray, Dot Keil, Jenny Callif, Tracie Lees, Brittny Parsons, Rich Keil, Mark Schaefer, Elaine Burchfield, Kim Roland, Carrie Mollette, Tom Hayes, Kathy Greer, Henrietta Pryszczewska, D. Thomsen, Jen Kearney, Stefanie Osborne, Catherine Black, Catt Dimes, Megan Hatta

MINUTES

Jenny Califf made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Tracie Lees seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Seventh Grade Playground Project

EILMS 7th grade students undertook a research project this fall to develop new playground initiatives. After compiling interest survey results from students in grades 4-8, they worked on teams to streamline ideas, determine budgets and project costs, and create prototypes. Thirteen teams presented to their grade and voted on the top 6 who then presented to the PTO during the November meeting. Project ideas included: an outlet table, shade & seating options, a ball hut, tetherball, and equipment for volleyball and soccer.

Presentations were enthusiastically received by the PTO members who noted they were impressed by the students' professionalism, use of logic and data-based decisions, ability to answer questions, and creative prototypes. Bob Rutter moved to fund \$3000 toward playground initiatives for the 2016-2017 school year and factor an additional \$500 annually into the PTO budget for ongoing maintenance. Tracie Lees seconded the motion which was then unanimously approved. The PTO will provide Tracie Lees \$3000 to use at her discretion to fund proposed projects. She will use a parent advisory committee to help with funding allocation and some of the logistics of implementation, etc. Tracie will work with Grandview Schools Facilities Director Brett Bradley for feasibility and priorities. The school may need parent volunteers to help with installation.

A plan was discussed for students to continue to fund raise, such as the December Nothing Bundt Cakes fundraiser, to earn money for maintenance of new and existing playground equipment. Also, since all 7th graders were involved with researching this project, the PTO may want to commemorate their efforts with a Class of 2022 plaque on the playground.

Start Talking Grandview

Grandview parent Megan Hatta gave a brief presentation on behalf of Start Talking Grandview, a statewide initiative launched by Governor Kasich to combat an increase in prescription drug abuse. Research indicates that local community initiatives tend to have better outcomes than state or national projects and that parents who talk directly to their kids about drug use may decrease the chance of abuse by 50%. Start Talking Grandview is non-profit and comprised of volunteers from the community and faith organizations. The organization has both a website-- StartTalkingGrandview.org-- and a Facebook page to share information.

Start Talking Grandview also supports Youth2Youth, a teen-centered program for developing leadership skills and pro-social behavior without drug or alcohol use. Teens work with EILMS 5th graders during their drug unit. Start Talking Grandview is working with Dr. Jamie Lusher to further integrate drug and alcohol information into Grandview's wellness curriculum. For example, they may help connect a Collegiate Recovery group with students to present on what would have helped them avoid addiction.

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The PTO members briefly brainstormed ways to partner with Start Talking Grandview and would be interested in possibly holding an EILMS-specific Start Talking Grandview event particularly on how to talk with younger students about drug and alcohol abuse. We will revisit this in 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Landscaping

Recently there has been some vandalism to some of our landscaping—broken planters and fall mums being destroyed. We had a brief discussion about ways to avoid this in the future and the need to reimburse Margaret Kukura for any personal funds she has used for landscaping.

Classroom Flags

Dot Keil noted during the EILMS facilities tour that some of the classroom flags are in poor condition. Tracie Lees will look into having them replaced.

Columns Art Project Proposal

Parent Henrietta Pyszczewska is pursuing a public art project of 2 columns to potentially be installed on Grandview Schools property. She is applying for grants from both the Grandview Marble Cliff Education Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council for materials and Artist-in-Residence expenses. She requested a PTO loan until grant funds are available. The Board indicated they would look into her request.

Meeting adjourn 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dot Keil