

MEETING MINUTES

EAGLE School EPO Meeting

September 8, 2015

Board Members Present

Jodie Johnson, Tanya Buckingham, Irene Ong, Dia Caulkins, Amy Bina, Patti DuBeau, Helen Lee, Scott Mason, Mahr Malik, Alperen Ozalp, Chad Thums

Guests Present

Carole Mason, Kris Aman, Nancy Barabas, Jenna Boyd, Gwen Cassis, Marjorie Cuthbert, Stella Krall, Ron Heinrich, Andrea Holderman, Tiffany Lim, Elizabeth Neviasser, Kris Schwartz, Daniel Siehr, Chris Turner

Presiding

Jodie Johnson

Call to Order

Jodie Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. She took the opportunity to facilitate introductions and welcome all board members and guests to the 2015-2016 school year.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

Director's Report

Carole Mason reported that the school is off to a good start. There are 237 students, therefore 2 sections of each unit, at EAGLE this year. The students have already had fire and tornado drills and will have a crisis drill, so that the children know where to go and what to do should the need arise. Carole's Corner emails will be sent out weekly to bi-weekly if possible. Coffee with Carole will be the last Friday of each month at 8:30am. The calendar on the EAGLE website is setup to sync with personal calendars so that families can be up-to-date on goings-on at school. She commented that this fall is going by quickly and clarified the upcoming Halloween party. It will only be for the younger kids this year (Primary through 4/5) with the 5/6 helping with the party. The 7/8 will be working on community service that day. There will still be a parade for all of the kids at the beginning of the day. She thanked the EPO for all of their work over the summer as well as for everything that was contributed to the school over the course of the year. Work over the summer such as landscaping, cement work, stairs, and new signs etc. was completed. EPO allocated funds were spent on the items voted on last spring – playground cart with smaller games & toys, chess & checker sets, new noodles, giant connect 4, two new light bars and six new cams on the front track in the auditorium, four new microphones for the stage, along with a new backdrop that can be used over and over for scenery, as well as furniture needed by the counselors. This year \$90,000 in scholarship money was given to students in need from the combined sources of the EPO and the school.

Treasurer's Report

Irene Ong went over the 2015-2016 projected budget EAGLE School and EPO accounts. She reported that, per family EPO dues were raised from \$10 to \$20 for the 2015-16 school year. EPO budget is for fun family social events, staff gifts and teacher/staff/volunteer appreciation, not fundraisers. Fundraisers are part of the EAGLE School budget maintained by Wade Neitzel. Irene mentioned \$500 has been allocated to bring in an EPO sponsored speaker for the parents. Also that the liaison for each of the classrooms will be in charge of the class gifts.

New Business

Back-to-School Night Refreshments: Tanya Buckingham is managing this event.

Fall Fundraiser: Dia Caulkins reported that we will have a Read-a-Thon as we did last year starting in October. The Reader Leaders (student who reads the greatest number of minutes in each unit) will receive a prize for their reading. The class who reads the greatest number of minutes will have a mini-class party. The prizes will be handed out after the Halloween parade on Thursday morning Oct. 29.

Community Building Update: Helen Lee said that this year the laser tag event will happen in the Spring. This fall there will be an event at Vietense golf course, but she is checking the Badger Schedule to avoid potential conflicts. The Berbee Derby will take place on Thanksgiving, where funding that directly benefits technology can be raised. There will be a pottery event in November where holiday gifts for family members can be made. In addition, there will be an outing in January to Rockin' Jump as an alternative to last year's KEVA night.

Family Game Night: Andrea Holdman will be managing this event

Barnes & Noble Book Fair: Ellen Bunn reported that on Sat December 12 we will have a book fair at Barnes & Noble. We will be the only school there and Tiffany Lim will be heading the committee lining up volunteers. We will need a crew of readers and wrappers. We are looking for a coordinator for music, perhaps to have some music groups perform. Two local authors will be there on hand and we will receive 20% of the sales of all books.

Fitchburg Farmers Market: Jimlene Pleva will manage this activity

EAGLE Spirit Wear: Elizabeth Neviasser reported that she is looking for some creative ideas for this year's spirit wear. Perhaps they can look at zip up hoodies as an alternative to pull-over sweatshirts. Dan Siehr said he will talk to the student council about potential design ideas.

Scholastic Book Orders: Dia Caulkins reported that there would be a Scholastic Book order placed in September. She had not yet put together the flyers or handed them out but that would be done shortly so that an order could be placed.

Grade School Halloween Party: Chad Thums and Jenna Boyd will be managing this activity

Old Business

Back-to-School Ice Cream Social: Tiffany Lim said that about 150 - 160 people attended, which is about the same as last year. All the custard was donated by Culvers and all the toppings were donated by families. It was a great way for families to reconnect.

Unit Parent Liaison Relationship: Tanya Buckingham said that with the theme of communication that her team is working on fostering better communication between all units, unit parents and teachers, and unit parents and the EPO. They are working on creating a pamphlet outlining the expectations of unit parents, as well as what support exists to help those unit parents and what funds/supplies are available for their use.

Planning Session Initiatives: Jodie reported that members of the EPO met over the summer and discussed the mission of the EPO and what can be done to improve what the EPO does. One of the key points was to strengthen overall communication for parents and the EPO, as well as strengthening relationships between parents and teachers with the EPO. In addition, improved communication between the EPO and the EAGLE Student Council is a goal. Moving forward having someone connect with the student council as well as potentially having a student sit in on EPO meetings was suggested. Dan Siehr has worked with the Student Council in the past and volunteered to do it again. At the summer meeting fundraising done by the EPO was also discussed. In order to get greater feedback upon where fundraised dollars should be allocated a survey is being made that will be sent out to all the families at EAGLE so that they can help with those decisions. Some of the possibilities for this year's EPO funds include, bleachers for the gym, an outdoor classroom, and a weather monitoring system, etc.

Announcements & Adjournment

Jodie thanked everyone for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dia J. Caulkins, EPO Secretary