

Minutes: EGRPS Middle School PTSA
February 26, 2008
9:00 am

Welcome and Introductions

Andi Allen, President

Student Council Report

Emma Hall

Fundraiser: Pasta for Pennies, raised even more money this year, almost \$3000. Thanks to parent volunteers who helped with this. Valentine's Dance went well, great theme, again, thanks to parent volunteers. Spring fundraiser might be a can drive. Spirit Assembly was a lot of fun. Teachers won the game by two points.

Superintendent's Report

Sara Shubel was not present today.

Administrative Reports

Peter Stuursma

Peter reported for himself and for Dr. Schubel:

He commented on the great collaboration between HS and MS teachers during the teacher-development days during Winter Break.

MEAP scores are still embargoed. We don't know when they will be released to the general public.

Peter reported for Teacher-Rep, Kris Bratlie:

Thanks for the Day of Caring T-Shirts.

The Orchestra Festival is Feb 27, Band is March 6, Choirs are March 6-7.

Holly Lampen says thank you for the new kiln. New items have already been fired.

Week of March 3 is 6th Grade Stanford Testing.

The Math-A-Thon raised money for St. Jude's. Great job to kids for raising money for important community causes.

Friday before Winter Break: Jimmy Gerken Day/8th Grade Transition Fair was held at the High School. Students arrived at 8:15 and had a great day. They were well-behaved, both in the large groups and in the break-out groups, in which they met the guidance counselors they will have at the high school. Displays and booths were set-up by the high school students and they were great.

Parents and students still have the planning days in March, during which they will use computers to work out the students' four-year plans on the computers at the school.

New plans are being made to have the HS guidance counselors come to the MS this spring to meet with the MS counselors (like we do with the 5th graders.)

Peter says thank you for remembering him during Principals' Week. He appreciated (and has used) the Starbucks card!

Peter also encourages attendance at the EGR Schools Foundation's Hurrah Event on March 8 and remarked that all of our students, in all of our schools, benefit from grants given by the Foundation. This is a raffle-ticket event, open to all, not an auction, and the tickets are reasonably priced. There will be plenty of food, good music and fun for all. The foundation hopes to make this an annual event.

New Front Entry Design:

Original design of the school had the cafeteria in a different place. When new cafeteria was built, the office was taken out of the front entrance area of the school.

New entryway focuses all people into a supervised area as they enter the school. The two doors to the left of the existing gym/café doors, (leading into the hallway) will be eliminated. This provides some green space for new plantings. Bike racks stay where they are.

The existing gym/café doors must remain in order to accommodate people for events in the gym and cafeteria. We will still use these for morning drop-off and have the students wait in the cafeteria and main front hall until 7:45 am. After that, these doors will be locked for the rest of the day, forcing all traffic to enter via the office entrance where every person will be observed.

One comment: on the MS Calendar, it would be helpful to color the sports items differently, so the items that affect everyone in the community, such as PTSA meetings, could be seen more readily.

Guest: Kim Rossi

Kim is here on behalf of the CAC (Community Action Council). The CAC is re-introducing itself, and asking for a Call to Action regarding underage drinking and illegal drug use in the community. The Call to Action is intended to get people talking. The I-Care pledge is an attempt to get parents to agree to do what they can to prevent illegal behaviors among their own children and in our community and to agree to provide appropriate supervision in their homes when young people are present, and to agree *not to provide* alcohol to underage drinkers. Information about the CAC was sent in the water bills, and was mailed to households in the township.

By signing the I-Care pledge, you are simply saying that you are receptive and open to discussing your responsibilities with other concerned parents. It alleviates hesitation that might be present among adults when discussing this sensitive issue. Mayor Bartman and Peter Stuursma are both in support of this program as a positive movement in our community. Please read the materials and consider participating in this effort.

An event on March 9 (Sunday evening) will provide more information, national and local statistics and etc. This event is appropriate for adults, or possibly for high school age students, probably NOT for middle-schoolers.

Committee/Liaison Reports

Legislation, Jodi MacLean

- Nothing to report except that the Legislative Coffee with Vern Ehlers was cancelled, due to the snow day, and has been rescheduled for Monday, March 3, at the Little Auditorium, High School from 9:00-10:00.
- The next Legislative Committee meeting is on March 3 at Woodcliff at 11:45 am.

Mini Grants & Rewards, Stacey Levitt

- We gave a mini-grant to the science teachers: Tickets for all 8th Graders for IMAX Deep Sea 3-D movie, to go along with their science curriculum on April 24. Students will ride buses with chaperones and staff. 8th Grade parents are needed as chaperones, from 10:00 to end of the day.

Susie Gerow

- We still have money in Curriculum Enhancement Program. Teachers are encouraged to apply for this money. Have them contact Evon Roberts and fill out the form online.
- We're closing the books in June 30 this year; please turn your receipts in on time.

Old Business

January minutes were approved and will be submitted for the web site.

New Business

Survey: will be online this year. The survey is done every three years. Three years ago, it was done on paper. Betsy Bloom demonstrated how this will work on the screen.

Parents will receive a postcard in the mail and an e-mail letting them know when the survey will be live. Parents are asked to take the survey multiple times, *once for each child they have in the school*. On the second time through, some of the questions will be automatically eliminated.

Parents will receive an e-mail for each child they have in the system. The e-mail will contain a direct link to the survey. Parents should be assured that the comments are gathered anonymously, even to those who are interpreting the survey. *No one will be able to identify family names or students' names in the results or in the information that is gathered.*

Several "comments" fields are available in the survey. Parent comments are highly valued by those interpreting the survey results, and in the past have resulted in real changes in school policies or in curriculum offerings. Please attempt to provide complete answers—these will be very helpful.

When the survey is completed, we will very likely post results on the web site. A general overview will be given at the March meeting.

Important Dates:

Feb 25-29	6 th Grade Stanford Testing
Feb 25	Spring Sport Sign Ups
Feb 27	Progress Reports Online
Mar 8	EGR Foundation Fundraiser Event: Hurrah! At 7 pm
Mar 17, 19, 20	8 th Grade Academic Planning at the HS
Mar 18 and 26	Parent/Student Meetings on Technology and Students: See note below.
Mar 28	Report Cards Mailed Home
April 4-13	Spring Break

Look for information on two events, one for elementary age (4th and 5th graders) and one for MS and HS students, concerning technology and our students. These are hands-on events designed to help parents understand what their children are doing online, with web cams, etc.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Mar 25, at 9:00 am, Community Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi MacLean, Recording Secretary
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