

## **Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of the Academic Boosters on 9/5/19**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Patty Woodhouse, President. Patty turned the floor over to Craig Weigel, Principal who introduced Janet Tombre to start out with the Teacher Report. Janet communicated the following: Mrs. Steers is taking the IB Film students to the Mosaic Mobile Film Competition, and the Champions of Diversity Club members will also be attending; Mrs. Weigel is having her business class participate with Junior Achievement; Mr. VandenBrink is busy reviewing the EE essay drafts by the IBDP students; and Mrs. Kratt had her first Latin Club meeting this morning. Janet also reported that the High School English Department is really focusing on reading and writing this year. Mrs. Michell applied for and received an EGR Schools Foundation grant to develop a classroom library this year, and the department is also accepting book donations (fiction, nonfiction, contemporary), which can be taken to the library or to Room 242. Janet also thanked the Academic Boosters for supporting the college essay workshop that she held in August. Craig also introduced EGR Public Safety Officer Collin Wallace who is the EGRHS school liaison. Collin stated that if there is anyway that he can help/support Academic Boosters events, please reach out to him.

Craig then began his Principal's Report by talking about the new staff at the High School this year: Marissa Lehman (Speech and Language Pathologist), Hope Sparks (Special Education Resource Room Teacher), Lori Goins (Special Education Moderately and Cognitively Impaired Teacher), Jake Castillo (Band Teacher/Director) and Casey Postma (Hardware Tech Support). Craig also reported that Heather McKinney-Rewa will be moving to the Middle School to be the Assistant Principal and Jeff Webb will be the new IB Coordinator. Due to these moves, the High School is looking for a new science teacher and a new yearbook teacher. Craig and Lori Johnston, Director of Counseling, then spoke together about the upcoming EGR Community Programs: Vaping on Sept. 18 at 6pm in the PAC, and Angst on Oct. 7 at 7pm in the PAC. Students are welcome to come to both presentations, but students at the Middle School and the High School will see the vaping presentation in school as well. The vaping presentation will include the updated vaping policy in our schools, and the angst presentation will show a documentary about the impact of anxiety and will have a panel of local experts to participate in the following discussion. Lori added that the school counselors and social worker are great resources if students need to talk to someone about vaping addiction. A meeting participant also suggested posting information about available resources in places visible to the students i.e., in the bathrooms. Craig reported that the Freshman Parent Forum will be held on Monday Sept. 9 at 6:30. Clubs and organizations will be represented, and there will be a program beginning at 7:00 which will be a candid conversation about High School life. Craig also reported that News 8 will be doing their morning broadcast live from EGRHS tomorrow. There will be donuts there for the students, the drum line will be performing, and both the Freshman Connection and Hearts of Gold programs will be highlighted. Students can come at 5:30am and the live show begins at 6:00am.

The floor was then turned over to Lori Johnston, Director of Counseling, who presented on "online tools." Lori began her presentation with the EGRHS home page and specifically the "counseling" tab. Lori mentioned that "Guidance" is an outdated term, and the High School is making a concerted effort to get into the current terminology of the profession and is in the process of reorganizing its Guidance Website into a Counseling Website containing more information. But right now there is still a lot of information on the Counseling tab including information on testing,

academics, important dates, presentations and the EGRHS profile. Craig added that the mandatory state testing is the week after spring break this year, with no school that Monday, the SAT for juniors on Tuesday, and the SAT workkeys on Wednesday. The seniors will not need to report back to school until Thursday of that week, but do have to submit documentation of 3 additional hours outside of school (i.e., college visits). Lori added that the October newsletter will include information on signing up sophomores for the PSAT (juniors are automatically signed up), and Lori also mentioned the new timeline this year for registration and payment for AP exams, which is Sept. 9 to Sept. 24. Lori then continued her presentation by reviewing the Naviance Student page online (which is the uppermost choice on the Counseling tab) and mentioned that this is the method used to transmit any document for college applications. Information and registration to attend college visits to EGRHS are also available on this page. Lori also stated that parents can get a login from Carolynne Allaben in the Counseling Office so that they can observe their student's account, but parents cannot input. Each student has their own Naviance student account.

Lori introduced Tim Johnston, Athletic Director, to review the Athletics information on the EGRHS home page. Tim discussed the "ScheduleStar" tab that can be used to get real time athletics schedule updates and results, and he also stated that this system can be downloaded into one's google calendar to make updates in real time. Tim also mentioned that the school issued 502 gold cards this fall, which is more than 50% of the students. Tim explained that this is great, but he emphasized that students should only get involved in a sport if they can commit to it, and students shouldn't over involve or over program themselves – keep athletics in perspective. Tim finished by reviewing some stats from last year: there were 220 seniors, 180 of them in sports, 37 went on to play at the college level, 4 of them on scholarship.

Craig then reported on student clubs. There is a link right now on the Vision (student newspaper) website to club information, and that link will be added to the EGRHS home page with information on when the clubs meet and who sponsors each club. If a student(s) want to start a new club they need to talk to Mr. Wojciechowski (Assistant Principal), fill out a form and get a faculty sponsor.

Patty ended the meeting by mentioning that the next meeting of the Academic Boosters will be on Thursday October 3 and will cover stress and school. Other upcoming meetings are: Tuesday Nov. 12 (joint meeting with the PTO with the Counseling Office annual update); Thursday Dec. 5 (ISD programming overview); Thursday Feb. 6 (book club covering the book "Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be" by Frank Bruni; Thursday March 5 (IB Update); and Thursday May 7 (TBD).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03am.

Respectfully submitted by Stacey Levitt, Recording Secretary