

## **Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of the Academic Boosters on 11/1/18 (Joint Membership Meeting with the EGRHS PTO)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Spencer Brown, President. Spencer introduced himself and mentioned that Craig Weigel, Principal, would not be able to join the meeting today so Lori Johnston, Director of Guidance, will be covering Craig's report. Spencer then turned the floor over to Lori.

Lori began by stating that Craig is in a meeting, but he wanted to share that he hopes we have had our last incident at the High School (referring to the recent evacuation). Craig felt the students were awesome in the way they handled the situation, with only a couple of students struggling afterwards. Lori also mentioned that Craig's newsletter should be available at the end of the week. Lori then moved on to the Guidance Office report, stating that today (November 1) is a very significant day (a big college application deadline). Lori reported that the Guidance Office has processed 1166 applications to 255 colleges, teachers have written 329 letters of recommendation, and guidance counselors have written 102 letters of recommendation. Lori mentioned that even though the college application process is electronic, there is still significant labor involved. Lori stated that Junior Conferences start next Monday, and this past Monday the Guidance Office hosted the Interim Director of Admissions at Michigan State University as part of the College Planning meeting for junior students and parents. There will be a Financial Aid night on Monday November 12 in the Little Aud where a representative from the Grand Valley State University Office of Financial Aid will give tips on completing the FAFSA, which went live on October 11. Lori added that a lot of colleges encourage applicants to complete the FAFSA as it is often used for merit based aid as well as need based aid. Lori mentioned that the guidance counselors will be working on EDPs (Educational Development Plans) with 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders beginning next week. EDPs include learning styles, career interests, strengths, and college searches. The Guidance Office will post the presentations and email the parents once the EDPs are done.

Lori moved on to the "Guidance Office Annual Report" presentation, stating that the Guidance Office website is the best resource available. Lori began by handing out the 2018-2019 EGRHS Profile (also available on the website). This report is sent along with every college application. Lori then stated that there is a link at the left of the Guidance Office website to the Weebly Annual Report. Lori reviewed the report, including the following information:

- College Applications, Acceptance and Attendance for the Class of 2013-2018
- Colleges Applied To, Accepted, Attended for the Class of 2018
- Post Secondary Plans – graphs with information on 2 year vs. 4 year institutions, in-state vs. out-of-state, public vs. private
- College Application and Acceptance History 2013-2018

There was some discussion about the increase in applications due to the increase in the number of schools accepting the Common App, and Lori explained how the Common App works. There was also some discussion of trends including IB vs. AP, and Lori stated that so far she has not seen any real difference in acceptances, adding that IB is more about the journey than the prize. Lori also reviewed some tables with application analyses by specific universities, and she mentioned that this information is available on Naviance Student, for which all students have a login. Parents can

get a login from Carolynne Allaben in the Guidance Office. Lori went on to share Class of 2019 College Assessment statistics (average score of 1172 on last spring's SAT, and average score of 1016 on the PSAT given to that class in the spring of 2017). Lori displayed a table showing EGRHS is a top public High School without an application (i.e., like City High) on this side of the state. All this information is also available on the website. Lori then opened the floor to questions, and after some discussion, Lori suggested reading the book "Where You Go is not Who You'll Be" by Frank Bruni for the best perspective on the college acceptance process. Lori concluded her presentation by stating that if anyone has any questions they should feel free to reach out to the Guidance Office.

Spencer moved on to the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the September PTO meeting and the minutes of the September and October Academic Boosters meetings were approved. The Academic Boosters budget for the 2018-2019 school year was also approved. Spencer introduced Julie Schultze, Chair of the Academic Boosters Progressive Dinner. Julie described how the Progressive Dinner works and asked that the meeting attendees please consider coming to the dinner on January 26. The cocktail party will be at the Gauri's house this year, and the attendees then find out which house they go to for dinner. The host homes all receive the same dinner, prepared by volunteers and heated up at each home. Beth Huegli has volunteered to Co-Chair the event this year, and there was a sign up sheet passed around for volunteers for host homes and for cooks for Friday Jan. 25 (volunteers do not need to be skilled cooks). Spencer stated that sign up sheets were also being passed around for volunteers to help with Winter Whirl and the Academic Boosters Awards Ceremony.

Spencer introduced Amy Stuursma, Executive Director of the EGR Schools Foundation, to report on the EGR Now and Forever Campaign. Before Amy began, Elizabeth Welch, School Board Member, gave a quick report. Elizabeth reported that the School Board honored the EGRHS National Merit Finalists at the last School Board Meeting, that the School Board had a clean audit, and that they got to amend the budget to reflect more students, resulting in the add back of the district psychologists full time and the largest staff compensation increase in 9 years. Elizabeth also mentioned that the School Board elections will be on the back of the ballot on November 5, and there are 4 people running for 3 positions. Elizabeth finished by thanking the EGRSF and EGRNOW for saving Para-pros, Spanish, and PAC management, and she turned the floor back over to Amy. Amy reported that there will be a "big reveal" tonight at the EGRSF event regarding the capital campaign that the Foundation has been working on for two years. Amy explained that EGRNOW was originally supposed to be for just a few years, but it has been going on for eight years now, and the district needs something more sustainable and predictable. EGRNOW and EGRForever have been providing the district an average of \$550,000 a year. EGRSF hired a consultant, conducted interviews, and determined that an achievable goal by 2021 would be to add \$8.4 million to the endowment fund in order to have a total endowment of \$12 million to ensure this funding will continue. The campaign is going into its public phase now, and Abby Sorota is chairing this effort and will be building a committee. EGRNOW will be absorbed into this new EGR Now & Forever capital campaign.

Spencer concluded the meeting by thanking the EGRSF on behalf of our students. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Stacey Levitt, Recording Secretary