



EPA Board Minutes



Date: 12/7/21

Time: 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Stephanie Sikes

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Stephanie Sikes, Kristen Meritt, Becki Lee, Amy Toomey, Amy Cagle, Xaviera Johnson, Kathy Jenkins, Rebekah Joseph, Lori Thompson, Ian Foley, Mandy Pitoscia, Melissa Damann, Morriah Mryszuk, Nikki Risinger, Chantay Stanley

Approval of Minutes:

Rebekah moved to approve.

Treasurer's Report:

Amy reported that we had several spirit event checks come in for about \$1,000. We also received a check for School Kits for \$1525.

Old Business:

-Parent volunteers (lunch and recess)

Kristen shared that there had been some confusion with the current lunch and recess duty volunteer schedules. Some volunteers and teachers believed parents were allowed to be alone with students while they ate in their classrooms. Administration stated that this is NOT allowed and only adults that have been trained as substitutes can do so. Ms Johnson stated that administration is hopeful and would like to see the return of 2 grades eating together in the commons area. They will revisit this after the winter break.

Ms Johnson was able to clarify and answer the following questions:

- Are the staff that are doing lunch duty in the commons area doing so as part of their regular schedule?

Meaning: Are any of them giving up their lunch/planning to do so?

Lunch duty is a scheduled duty built into the day for those staff members. (They also have a lunch break.) A parent that volunteers in the cafe is able to relieve one of those staff members. That staff member can, in turn, relieve a classroom teacher from having to eat in the classroom with their students. Ms Johnson will be sure that all teachers and staff know that this is what is expected should a parent be in the cafe.

-Do volunteers that have undergone sub training need to do so each school year?

Sub training is good from year to year. Contact Ms. Hanna if you would like to go through sub training. You do NOT have to substitute if you go through this training with the purpose of volunteering.

-Flipcause trial

Our trial with Flipcause is up at the end of the month. It was decided that we will NOT continue working with Flipcause as it was not as user-friendly as we had hoped. The rates for transactions during the No-Fuss were also higher than we had expected.

-Community Partnerships Committee

Stephanie introduced and welcomed Ian Foley as our new head of Community Partnerships. He already has some good ideas about levelled sponsorship, campaign engagement and marketing. He believes it's imperative that we have "consistency in message" as well as a goal for our annual fundraising. Everyone is excited to have Ian on board!

New Business:

-Holiday Cheer 2021

Ms. Jordan has worked to compile a list of requested items for our families in need. There are still several items that need to be purchased. Currently, it has been sent to staff members and posted in the EPA newsletter. Ms Johnson will check to see if it can be sent to all ESA families via email.

Committee Reports

Back to School Supply Kits- Inga Kaidel

We are still looking into other, non-affiliated companies to use for next year. Ms Johnson suggested ordering supplies in bulk and distributing them ourselves. Board members had concerns about manpower and storage.

Book Fair - Becki Lee and Nikki Risinger

Fall book fair is officially closed out. We sold about \$8000 in books and spent most of our old scholastic dollars on teacher wishlists. We now have about \$4,000 in new scholastic dollars.

Communications - Kathy Jenkins

Continue to send pictures and info to Kathy for the newsletter.

Community Partnership - Ian Foley

Cultural Events - Melissa Damann

Melissa reports that it is going very well! 8th grade had a 5 day write-residency last week. All other contracts have been signed. Melissa will share information about future events with Kathy so she can post them on FB and in the newsletter.

Hospitality - Amy Cagle, Nikki Risinger and Emily Blanchard

Snacks were given out this Monday and committee members are helping administration hand out hot cocoa next Monday. The next luncheon will be on February 16th..

Lost and Found - Amy Toomey

Please claim lost items before 12/15. After that, Amy will be donating remaining items to Note in the Pocket.

Membership - Kim Soden and Mandy Pitoscia

Kim and Mandy are working on getting a speaker for next week's general meeting. They would like to have someone from the school or community to discuss ways to support our children emotionally during this challenging time.

Middle School - Candy Garza

No-Fuss Fundraiser - Rebekah Joseph

Shop and Earn - Lori Thompson, Mandy Pitoscia and Jen Ludgate

We are currently running a campaign with The Giving Tree. Donations should be dropped off by 12/11. Amy Toomey suggested sharing a video on how to use the BoxTops app so that more families might participate.

Spirit Events - Chantay Stanley and Shayne Brodsgaard

Becki shared that our event at Texas Roadhouse was unusually slow. She attributes this to the fact that many families were out of town due to school being closed the week of Thanksgiving. We are grateful to the ESA family that runs this location as they still made a donation to the EPA.

Spirit Gear - Kristen Meritt and Kathy Jenkins

Graphic Evolutions is currently running our fleece sale. Orders are due by 12/19 and will be delivered in mid-January.

Spring Fundraiser - Rebekah Joseph and Morriah Mryszuk

A survey was sent to school staff to gauge interest in a spring fundraiser as well as to generate a list of desired items for which we could raise funds. 29 people responded and everyone stated they were happy to participate. It's been decided that we will have a Fun Run sometime in March. Rebekah and Morriah are looking into software to help manage donations. Some ideas from staff for goals include: an outdoor classroom, deep cleaning, curriculum and an auditorium. There was discussion about how we could use funds to fill a variety of requests from staff. Amy Toomey suggests Donors' Choose as a way to avoid confusion with fulfilling grants.

Stock the Shelves - Kim Bailey and Amy Toomey

Families have been very generous with their donations.

Sunshine Committee - Whitney Carey

Gifts are being dropped off tomorrow.

Miscellaneous

-Cafeteria tables are scheduled to be delivered in February. Board members discussed that we might need to hire someone to put them together if they do not come assembled.

-Extra funds leftover from the purchasing of cafeteria tables will be donated to the school to help fund events that support our staff and increase morale.

-Questions were raised about the cleaning of the school. Board members acknowledged that our custodians work very hard every day but wonder when and how often “deep cleaning” happens? Does the school have a budget for that?

-Kathy Jenkins posed a question about Eagle Scout projects. The EPA is open to learning more about supporting these projects.

-Amy Toomey suggested changing our January board meeting from January 4th to January 11th. All agreed.

Upcoming Dates:

Spirit Night: 12/9 at Papa Murphy's

Giving Tree Campaign: 12/6 - 12/11

Fleece Sale: 12/5 - 12/19 through Graphic Evolutions @ <https://esaspiritstore.spiritsale.com/>

Next Board Meeting: 1/11, 2/1

Next General Meeting 12/14