

ELHS Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Committee/Meeting Name	ELHS Parent Council				
Date	11-18-14	Starting Time	6:30 p.m.	Ending Time	7:58 p.m.
Location	ELHS HUB			Recorder	
Members Present	Lisa Rutkowski, Tom Meyer, Sheila Nash, Nancy Schertzing, Shan Sweitzer Laura Dotson; Jennifer Nelson; Konrad Hittner; Donna Kaplowitz Guests: Kongji Qin, Coby Fletcher, Suzanne Rojas, Nate Lake				

Topics	Discussion, Information	Action to be Taken, Decision, Recommendation, Timeline
Nate Lake	Board member Nathan Lake mentioned the board had formed a committee to study the best uses for the Red Cedar building. Hillary Henderson will chair the committee which will look at possible educational and administrative uses of the building. Nate also advised that parent groups and others should consider how their needs align with the district's strategic plan which can be found on the district's website. He advised that the board will have an organizational meeting on January 8 th and a board development meeting before then. Nate will continue as the board liaison to the Parent Council	None
Introduction of parents and guests	Parents and guests introduced themselves.	
Shan Sweitzer	Treasurer Sweitzer presented the budget for the 2014-2015 academic year. The Council began the academic year with a balance of approximately \$4,400, had revenues of approx. \$9,600, and spent approx. \$900 leaving a balance of \$13,200. Proposed expenditures for the year currently total	The budget was approved as submitted with a \$400 expenditure being moved from the "speaker" column to the teacher grant column.

	approx. \$ 6,300.	
Coby Fletcher	<p>Principal Fletcher reported on a number of items. He advised that the school was now enforcing the existing departure policy which requires that unsupervised students must leave the school within 15 minutes of the end of the school day. He advised that the E.L. library and All Saints Episcopal church had made provisions for students to use their premises after school and that the district did not qualify for any programs that would fund after school programs.</p> <p>Coby then discussed a recent incident in which the school newspaper had mistakenly written that teachers were currently working without pay. A loudspeaker correction was quickly made, but the incident called into question the paper's review process.</p> <p>Next Coby discussed the development of a process for recognizing student clubs and indicated he welcomed input on the subject.</p> <p>Coby also mentioned that the high school is at the exploratory stage of doing some curriculum changes.</p>	<p>Parent discussion and questions:</p> <p>It was asked how much it would cost for a district sponsored after school program and Coby said it would cost tens of thousands of dollars. Another question was asked about the possibility of using MSU students and the response was that students rotate in and out of activities which make them useful for things like tutoring, but not for ongoing scheduled activities. This item will be revisited in the post council meeting with the Principal which takes place the day after Parent Council meetings. This meeting is comprised of the Co-Presidents and Principal Fletcher.</p> <p>It was noted that some might think Coby's pre-publication review of student newspaper articles could be viewed as an over-reaction; Coby said he is not reviewing every article.</p>
Donna Kaplowitz	<p>Co-President Donna Kaplowitz mentioned that part of the proposed curriculum changes included possibly adding Honors courses between regular subject matter courses and the AP version of those courses. She also advised that the District Parent Council had expressed a concern that the state legislature may take lame duck action which would harm public schools.</p> <p>Donna mentioned that there was a good turnout for the October meeting with school board candidates. In addition, Donna said that she had been contacted by the Pinecrest parent council to see if the high school Parent Council would like to co-fund a billboard supporting the teachers in their contract negotiations.</p> <p>Later in the meeting Donna presented a proposal that the Council accept a process for student's to present grant proposals and that funds be made available for grants to student organizations.</p>	<p>No motion was made on the request from the Pinecrest parent council.</p> <p>It was moved and supported that the student grant process and funding be approved. This motion was tabled without a vote.</p>
Nancy Schertzing	<p>Co-President Nancy Schertzing said that the Family Directory was in the final stages of preparation and would probably accompany next week's Parent Council bulletin. She also mentioned that the teacher luncheon went</p>	<p>Laura Dotson said that thank you notes would be sent to those persons who donated to the Parent Council as part of its recent fund raiser.</p>

	<p>very well, was well attended, was very much appreciated, and that several teachers had sent thank you notes.</p>	<p>Principal Fletcher agreed to cover the postage costs for the thank you notes.</p>
Konrad Hittner	<p>Teacher Grant Chairperson Hittner presented three teacher grant applications, one for a Science classroom clicker system in the amount of approx. \$1,000, one for music folders for Band classes in the amount of \$900, and one for mat cutters for the Art Department and a cost of \$230.</p>	<p>The Council approved the mat cutter request for \$230, the music folder request in the amount of \$500 with an invitation that a subsequent request for the remaining amount could be made in the future. After an oral presentation from district teacher Suzanne Rojas, the Council approved her request of \$1,027.94 for a clicker system for her classroom.</p>
Announcements	<p>Sheila Nash advised that university admissions personnel from MSU and a smaller school would do presentations on the college admissions process at the Council's December meeting. This portion of the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. . Nancy Schertzing said that the business portion of the Council's January meeting would be shorter than normal (6:30-7:15) and would include a presentation of software which can be used for scheduling parent conferences. The Council will also revisit the tabled motion regarding student grants. Principal Fletcher agreed to do a "State of the School" presentation at the January Council meeting.</p>	
	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.</p>	