



East Lansing High School

Parent Council Meeting

9/11/2018 | 6:30 | Meeting called to order by: Lisa Rutkowski

In Attendance

Lisa Rutkowski, Lynette Long, Nikki Norris, Jen Louagie, Wendy Sylvester-Rowan, Andy Wells, Anita Barkley-Smith, Andria Ditschman, Barb Beckner, Lorrie Latsko, Melissa Lehti-Shiu, Kim Steed-Page, Linda Wychers-Caldwell, Byron Lane

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the August meeting and approved.

Administration Update – Andy Wells

- **New AD:** Welcome to Nikki Norris. Nikki is the new Athletic Director who comes to EL from Corunna Public Schools.
- **New Associate Principal:** Matthew Morales was approved as new Associate Principal for ELHS. Matthew's hiring comes because of the retirement of Nancy Artman. Matthew has a mental health background and will begin in his new role on Monday, 9/17. Fun fact, Matthew serves as a Big Ten Basketball Official.
- **Setting the Tone:** Andy Wells reports that the school year is off to a good start. The ELHS administration is setting a tone of expectations with the students and providing them with the tools necessary to navigate the school successfully. Mr. Wells vision is to create EL Family and shared with the students that to be a "Family" means there is trust and respect amongst each other. This is important to creating a supportive environment conducive to learning.
- **Curriculum Night:** Was successful. The turn out was good.
- **ELHS Commencement:** ELHS commencement this year will be held on Friday night. This is due to the Broadway musical "Hamilton" being held on the MSU campus and therefore will limit access to technical assistance required to host the commencement on a Sunday. Commencement will still be held at the MSU Auditorium.
 - This year, seniors will do a Day of Caring. They will visit local elementary schools wearing their caps (*not gowns*) and assist students in various ways. Seniors will also have a cook-out and do the "19" photo. This is in lieu of the senior brunch traditionally held at Eagle Eye which is very costly. The objective of the Day of Caring is to send students away knowing that they have had an impact on the district.
- **Club Rush:** Club Rush occurred during the lunch period and was successful. All clubs at ELHS are represented by their members. Students can learn about each club and join. Students are encouraged to get involved. All clubs are student driven.
- **Homecoming:** Homecoming is 9/21. Spirit Week will be held the entire week. The homecoming dance is 9/22 and the Theme is "Starry Nights". Dress attire is snappy casual. Two assemblies will be held on

Tuesday 9/18 & Friday 9/21 both at the end of the day. Questions regarding the homecoming parade should be sent to Heather Mueller and Julie Berridge.

Proposed Budget Discussion for 2018/19

- There were some issues reconciling numbers from last year. There is \$2,000 more than expected. Barb will conduct a further review to ensure accuracy.
- The council is starting the year with a budget balance of \$14,500. There was \$8,500 in donations received. There is an anonymous donor that has gives \$5,000 annually. That donor has since left the district, so we will need to look at fundraising as that money will likely not be given this year.
- There was discussion regarding renaming the teen closet and changing the budgeted amount. The teen closet is a student emergency fund used to purchase, snacks, bus passes and other items to students in need. Nicole Coss manages and will assess the need.
 - **Motion Made** (Linda Wychers-Saldwell): To change name to *Student Emergency Fund* and reduce amount to \$500. **Seconded by:** Jen Luogi.
 - **Discussion:**
 - Are we able to be more specific about need? Donors like to give when there is a more specific description about where money will be used.
 - The Kiwanis Club drops off food for some students to take home on the weekend is that an option? That only happens at the elementary level, not at the high school level.
 - The Counselors will let us know when there is a need.
 - **Motion Passed. – Unanimous.**
- 9th grade seminar. This is a new class offered this year for incoming 9th grade students who need a little more help. These students are identified by middle school counselors. This year there are about 22 students. Mr. Hamilton has asked for money to provide snacks for these students as an incentive.
 - Julie will contact Nick and Katie for more information, so the Council can decide goals and determine level of support.
- Barb has requested that the Council support discontinuing using Bank of America due to difficulty in working with them. Barb will investigate using MSUFUCU and other banks and credit unions. The Council agreed to research other banks and go with what's easiest.

Open Board Positions

- There are several open Board positions.
- Heidi Dempsey will do has agreed to do the directory.
- There is an opening for the Top Scholar leader. Lisa R. and Andy Wells will meet to discuss more how this will be handled. Feedback is that Top Scholar is a lot of work and can be overwhelming.
- Judy Schmidt is unable to be the fundraising chair. In previous years, a mailing to parents was sent out about no fundraisers only donations. Postage and printing cost more than the donations coming in. Barb will research using Square versus PayPal to see which is cheaper. Lisa will modify the form to shorten it and make it easier to read. Lisa will send the reformatted form out to the Council board for feedback.
 - Going forward, the donation request form will be sent via e-blast. It should be separate and not included with other emails. It will also be send out multiple times and around Christmas.

Other Updates/Items

- The welcome of international families went well. Lots of communication went out and event was successful.
- Club Rush – Six people signed up. Heather will work on draft info.
- Admissions Night – Ideas for smaller schools are being requested (i.e. Wayne State, K-Zoo College, Alma College). Byron Lane will research and follow-up.
- LGBTQ Representative will be here next month
- Will vote on budget in October

New Business

- October- Will vote on the budget

Announcements

None

Next Meeting

Date | time, Location - **October 9, ELHS - HUB - Supporting LGBTQ Students and Families**

Motion made to adjourn by Lisa R. Second by Barb Beckner. Meeting adjourned at 7:40.