



DRAFT

EMES PTA General Membership Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order – The general membership meeting of Evergreen Mill Elementary PTA was called to order by Angie Tomaszewski, President at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes- Lisa Krepich, Secretary presented the Minutes from the March 12, 2014 General Membership Meeting. Motion for approval was made by Maureen Kirk, and seconded by Anne Marie Vedda. Motion carried. Lisa presented attendees with a small Thank You gift as a token of appreciation from the Executive Committee. Remaining gifts will be left for Committee Chairs in their file folder in the PTA filing cabinet in the Staff Lounge.

Principal's Report – Mr. Pellegrino was unable to attend the meeting due to a School Board Meeting and Mr. Rawls attended in his absence. He reported that all was well as we move into the final quarter of the school year. SOL testing continues.

Report of the Executive Committee

- Treasurer's Report, Juana Kazmierczak, Treasurer, presented her financial reports to the group and highlighted some of the main spending line items. Second grade has purchased books under our Reading Program Support line item; \$646 additional money was paid out in Teacher Allotments; and we are at about \$12,000 to go toward our goal for income. Mathnasium donated \$200 used for T-shirts for the Math Team. Overall, if we spend and make all of the remaining budgeted line item amounts we will end the year with a balance of \$36,128. Maureen Kirk moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kevin Arcano seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report of Standing Committees

- Outdoor Classroom Project Committee – Presented by Angie Tomaszewski . Final plans for the Outdoor Classroom have been submitted to LCPS to gain "Approval to Modify Grounds" which is the final step before moving forward to break ground on the OC. Mr. Rawls (also Lead Teacher for the entire OC project) reported that the Rainbow Prisms purchased as a case study (motorized with a solar panel that makes the prism spin in direct sunlight) were not working quite as they had hoped. It is thought that the tinted windows of the OC were interfering with their function. They will work to move them around and hopefully get better results. A Ceremonial groundbreaking is being scheduled for Earth Day, 4/22/14. One change to the plan presented previously is that six raised planting beds have been added to the design – one for each grade level. A suggestion from the floor (Kate Warren) was made to gather donations of garden tools from parents to keep in a bin by the door of the classroom. Those items are readily available in stores this time of year and might help to generate excitement around the groundbreaking. Maureen Kirk asked a question regarding continued maintenance plans for the OC. The committee will cover that financially (around \$100 per year from PTA budget) and with "man hours" (volunteers on the committee who garden, etc). The Green Kids Grant application required a Lead Teacher (Chris Rawls) plus one teacher per grade named to serve on the EMES Outdoor Classroom Committee. The OC Committee will work out a system for sign-ups to use the classroom and the expectation for the grant is that one class be taught in the OC per quarter per class. Mr. Pellegrino has not expressed concern about maintenance of the actual space (landscape crews currently maintain and can

continue). It was suggested that we ask teachers again to weigh in with support or suggestions. A suggestion was made to break the project into a "dirt portion" and a "water portion." Question seems to have two major parts 1) how do we poll parents and teachers about this and what are we asking? And 2) is the OC Committee willing to do hands-on guest speaking / maintenance, etc. to take the burden of work/chores off teachers? Questions and concerns will be forwarded and further discussed with Mr. Pellegrino. It was noted that the teachers have expressed an interest in receiving laptops. Angie Tomaszewski had asked the teachers to let us know what features they needed (like inputs, outputs, VGA port, whether to connect to Promethean boards, memory, etc.) and the teachers never provided a reply. This topic will be discussed further at the next membership meeting with possible follow-up at an EMES Staff Meeting by Mr. Pellegrino and/or PTA Officers.

- Volunteer Committee – Kevin Arcano, Chair. This year we have 125 volunteers in the "volunteer" bank of emails (last year more like 180). Family Movie Night is coming up and might need help. A discussion regarding how to go about collecting volunteers (First Day Packet flyer or all online Sign-Up Genius?) for the next school year was started and then tabled in the interest of time. There is a question on whether or not Fifth Grade Activities needs additional funding and Kevin will follow-up with the Chair.
- School Events Committee – Kevin Arcano, Chair. Variety Show is going well. No food will be sold but a Food Drive for Backpack Buddies will be held in conjunction with the event.
- Outreach Committee – Kim Noel reported for Sally Dunleavy who could not attend. Great news – with donations and proceeds from the Used Book Sale, the PTA was able to fulfill all requests of EMES Fifth Graders for a 2013/2014 yearbook – so any 5th grader who did not purchase a yearbook on their own, will get one courtesy of PTA Outreach. The Spring Food Drive was a huge success – greater than Fall – and they were able to use donations and gift cards to provide all 120 BPB kids with full Spring Break food packs. Special thanks to Brownie Troop 6182 who packed those Spring Break meals. On Friday, March 14th, the Loudoun School-Business Partnership held its Recognition Breakfast. Six hundred educators and business leaders gathered in the National Conference Center in Lansdowne to honor the collaboration between hundreds of area businesses and the county's public schools. The partnership between Evergreen Mill, St. James' Episcopal Church and Frances Hazel Reid Elementary was honored for their amazing work. Summer food distribution will be organized again this year and details will be posted later. Wendell Fisher of the Loudoun Education Foundation has established a "Backpack Coalition" which may mean future subsidies for BPB.
- Ways & Means Committee – Maureen Kirk, Chair, reported that sponsorship letters for the Outdoor Classroom are still in the works. The Silent Auction committee has received a lot of great contributions and will continue to solicit more. They will also be asking each grade level to participate in creating a themed basket for the auction. More information will go out on that soon. Walk-a-thon is coming up and will begin more planning soon.
- Education, Arts & Athletics Committee – Julie Sprinkle
 - SEAC-Anne Marie Vemma reminded all of the very difficult budget decisions coming up for the School Board (\$38 million deficit to our budget and cuts must be found). Public hearings were to be held Wednesday evening 4/9/14. She encouraged parents to go and be heard and circulated email addresses for our representatives.
 - Original Works and Art to Remember are two programs the Education Committee is investigating for next year (possible art project/fundraiser combination).
 - ASEP-Winter After School Enrichment clubs ended this week. Monica Morrell has circulated a Survey Monkey to do follow-up with participants.
 - LEAP – Last month's meeting was on STEM opportunities. There is a very interesting opportunity with a program at NOVA Community College where their Outreach Committee has a person on staff who could work with a school to schedule volunteers (from NOVA) to come into the classroom to teach or assist as a guest speaker. The next LEAP meeting is 4/9 (this evening) and the subject is Cyber Security. The 5/15 LEAP meeting is a chance to meet the new Superintendent of LCPS.

- MATH COMMITTEE. Angie Tomaszewski on behalf of Jen Rayshap. Despite a rocky start, the Math Team was very successful. They sent 4 teams to a tournament and it was described as a great experience for all involved.

Report of Special Committees

- NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Kevin Arcano, Chair. Lisa Krepich made a motion to add Lynn Colavita as the third member of the Nominating Committee (Kevin Arcano and Juana Kazmierczak are the other two). Anne Marie Vedda seconded. Motion carried. Angie Tomaszewski read the by-laws Articles regarding Nominating Committee which were provided, however they were an outdated version. Kevin has noted such and will replace the bylaws version in the Nominating Committee binder with our most recently approved version (5/2013). Juana Kazmierczak read the biographies from three candidates nominated for officer positions:

For President, Maureen Kirk
For Vice President, Laurie Williams
For Secretary, Theresa Dinman

There were no further nominations made from the floor. The election will be held in 30 days at the May EMES PTA General Membership Meeting. A Sign-up Genius will remain active until June 1st with all other Committee Chair opportunities listed and available for sign-up. After that time it is possible they will deactivate the remaining unfilled positions for the next school year.

Announcements

- 4/10 Variety Show Rehearsals
- 4/14-18 Spring Break
- 4/22 Outdoor Classroom Earth Day Groundbreaking
- 4/24 at 8:45 a.m. EMES Volunteer Breakfast (not PTA related).
- 4/25 Spirit Day
- 4/28-5/2 Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/6 EMES Eats Out – Mama Lucci's
- 5/14 at 7:00 p.m. PTA General Membership Meeting and Officer Elections

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.