



# MINUTES

## EMES GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*Date | time 11/12/2014 7:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Maureen Kirk, President*

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### In Attendance

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Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Lani, Maureen Kirk, Theresa Dinman, Juana Kazmierczak, Laurie Williams, Kevin Arcano, Stephanie LaLumiere, Mike Taylor, Michelle Taliaferro, Rachelle Fondaw, Kate Akers, Caroline Geidl, Stephanie DeWan, Deirdre Rommelmeyer, Lisbeth Immel.

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### Approval of Minutes

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The October board meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously passed.

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### Principal's Report – Michael Pellegrino

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Veteran's Day program went well. The food drive and American Education Week are next week.

The television in lobby is part of PBIS. There is a puzzle on the screen that hides a message. The message is slowly revealed as the kids are allowed to remove a puzzle piece, which they are allowed to do if there are no student referrals to the office. This serves as incentive for the students to behave. The puzzle alone would have cost \$1,500 so it was cheaper to buy a TV which we can use for other things. The bench and mural are in the library.

There was a question about who takes pictures at assemblies. Jill Solis does this.

Inclusive Schools Week is coming up December 1-5. We plan to promote it through the morning program. If you have any ideas please shoot them our way. This week focuses on more than just special education. It includes all students and is a celebration of the diversity of our school. Kids will be helping out to participate by creating a rap, a song, or maybe a slide show. Each day will be something different.

Python Power (*i.e.* targeted instruction/intervention of kids that have similar weaknesses and strengths). Kids are combined during the first 25 minutes of the day. Right now it is centering on reading skills... Mr. Pellegrino asked what the kids are saying about it. Several parents said they have heard positive things. We're three weeks into the program and they're going to have a staff meeting to look at what is working, what needs to be improved, etc.

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### President's Report

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Thanks to Monster Mash folks. Thanks to Lynn Colavita for the directory, Gretchen Leonard for the ads and Caroline Geidl for handling membership. Membership cards and magnets are coming. Thanks to Stephanie DeWan and Mr. Pellegrino for the support from the school for the Read-A-Thon. Stephanie presented Mr. Pellegrino with a nice gift of spirit wear.

After School program is going well. We're working out some bumps on checking kids in.

Grants Committee: Three individuals have stepped forward: Karen Giurintano, Jennifer Rodriguez, and Stephanie DeWan. They will analyze teacher requests to determine if they're worth funding.

Maureen asked if anyone would like to be a co-chair with Sally Dunleavy to help with the Outreach Committee.

Kim Noel has been trying to restructure Backpack Buddies. She needs more volunteers and financial support.

The food drive will benefit BPB. BPB is serving 124 kids every week from EMES. EMES has \$500 in their bank account. For comparison, Francis Hazel Reed has over \$10,000. EMES can take checks and earmark them for BPB. A question was raised as to how to improve awareness of how many families at EMES use this service.

Helping Hands Committee: Maureen and Mr. Pellegrino had talked about a Copy Cathy type position to help teachers with their copying needs. Laurie will work with Michelle Taliaferro to see if the office volunteers are willing to add an hour to their shift and take on helping teachers with coping and laminating.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

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Juana encourages everyone to use PayforSchoolStuff because it increases security and makes the treasurer's job easier. Chairs should ask for help if they need to use it for an event. Also, it can be used for straight donations to the PTA. We should consider putting a "DONATE" button on the website.

Maureen Kirk made a motion to increase the Box Tops prize money budget by \$100 (from \$200 to \$300). Laurie Williams provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

The Fall and Spring fundraisers were projected to make \$10,000 (\$7000 for the Fall Read-A-Thon and \$3,000 for the Spring Jump-A-Thon). The Read-A-Thon alone raised over \$13,000. Kevin Arcano made a motion to cancel the Spring fundraiser; Stephanie DeWan provided a second. Motion passed unanimously. Juana cautioned that although overall our expenses are lower right now, some income producing items may fall short of projections, perhaps as much as \$5,100.

Juana provided a Treasurer's Report and current budget figures, including updates on income and expenses (see attached).

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## **Report of Standing Committees**

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Kevin Arcano gave an update: next week is Donuts with Dads; Soup and Salad (10 of each plus baked goods). We're a little short on salads so he's going to send a paper flyer to drum up support.

Michelle Taliaferro suggests that we re-evaluate how we communicate to parents about volunteering. We need to have more flyers and requests go to the entire school.

Laurie said we've talked about putting a tab for volunteer opportunities on the website.

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## **Old Business**

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Maureen Kirk provided an update from the Grants Committee.

Juana gave a brief synopsis of the last LEAP meeting, specifically the Loudoun Academies. The bond issue passed, which will allow many more students to take STEM classes and attend Monroe Technology Center.

Dr. Williams is now working on the Strategic Plan and he wants to hear from everyone so please chime in and let your voice be heard.

SEAC update from Rachel Fondaw: There is consistency of programs when making the transition from elementary to middle school but parents need to advocate. Be involved, especially when there is staff turnover. Quality inclusion: parents should remind their children to be an advocate for kids who might be feeling left out. Have a conversation with your kids.

It is important to show up at School Board meetings. This is much more effective than emails (even mass emails).

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## **New Business**

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No new business.

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## **Next Meeting**

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The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10 at 9 am in the teacher's lounge.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.