



MINUTES

EMES GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date | time 4/6/2016 7:00 PM | Meeting called to order by Maureen Kirk, President

In Attendance

Maureen Kirk called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mike Pellegrino, Dan Lani, Maureen Kirk, Mike Taylor, Kathy Jackson, Susan Crouse, Lisa Martin, Natalie Sutter, Virginia Davies, Janie Stockton, Lisbeth Immel, Julie Tambrini, Aaron Tambrini, Kim Noel, Diane Peratt, Ginger Walley, Kim Berkey, Rebecca Takemoto, Beth Stowell, David Eagan, Michelle Taliaferro, Pete Fedders, Chrissy Dugger, Kirsten Shabanowitz, Elena Fugate, Stephanie DeWan, Jennifer Garman, Caroline Geidl, Mandy Childs, Kate Akers, Stephanie Perhach, Kevin Arcano, and Eva Smith attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March General Membership Meeting were reviewed. Kim Noel moved that they be approved. Diane Peratt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Principal's Report – Michael Pellegrino

Mr. Pellegrino discussed the boundary changes. He says the parents here are phenomenal. We've built a wonderful school together, and now we all get to share what we've learned with other kids and another school. He and the other two principals involved in the coming changes are in constant communication to ensure that placement decisions are made with all of the information both schools need. He'll soon be sending a letter to the new parents for next year. He'll have a "meet the principal" night on May 11th before the next PTA meeting begins. We'll need to have our own send-off for current students and parents, separate from the last PTA meeting. DARE Graduation is tomorrow. There is a PTA-sponsored assembly this Friday, the Book Club Magician. The yearbook order deadline is Friday, April 8th. The annual volunteer appreciation breakfast is coming up on Thursday, April 14th, at 8:45 am.

President's Report – Maureen Kirk

Maureen Kirk thanked Caroline Geidl and Melissa Dukes for a fun Bingo for Books. She also thanked everyone for how they conducted themselves throughout the boundary change process; people really stayed above the fray.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Taylor

Mike Taylor provided highlights of the budget. He proposed several changes that required a vote: increasing ASEP receipts to \$2,053; decreasing Concessions receipts to \$500 and expenses to \$300—the membership decided to table this; Fifth Grade Activities reduce receipts to zero because we have the money to subsidize the whole thing—the membership decided to table this; increasing Family Movie Night expenses by \$800 because we are inviting the new families; reducing Python Pacers receipts by \$1382.47; reducing Spirit Wear receipts by \$1000 (membership discussed giving the leftover inventory to the new families rather than selling it for a profit); increasing Staff Appreciation by \$2,500 for a big farewell because most of us are leaving. Kevin Arcano moved to approve the entire list other than the changes to the Concessions and Fifth Grade Activities items, which were tabled. Julie Sprinkle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Taylor noted that at the end of this year we will still have \$26k-\$32k in the bank. He is checking into what should happen with that money, given that most of the current PTA membership will be moving to Catoctin Elementary School; he will let us know once he finds out from the Virginia PTA and other school's PTA.

Report of Standing Committees

Staff Appreciation: Kirsten Shabanowitz discussed staff appreciation week, which is May 2nd through May 6th. Kevin Arcano is organizing the luncheon, which will be on that Wednesday. The committee will do something especially big for the teachers this year, maybe including having a massage chair for use during lunch. Watch for signups to help with the various activities.

Variety Show: Kate Akers discussed the Variety Show. She needs lots of volunteers to help with various aspects of the show. Maureen Kirk will get the list of needs from Kate and publicize it. The last day of the food drive is the day of the event, so please consider bringing food donations to the show.

Fifth Grade Activities: Stephanie DeWan discussed this event. A flyer is going home to parents to request monetary donations. Fifth grade parents that want to get involved in the planning should contact Stephanie DeWan or Maureen Kirk.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Transition Planning: Maureen Kirk described the plan to transition the PTA for next year, considering that most families who are currently at EMES will be moving to Catoctin next year. She is using Signup Genius to get new PTA volunteers for next year here at EMES. The new parents are very enthusiastic and have already filled many of the roles, including people interested in all four officer positions.

Maureen met with the current president of the Catoctin Elementary School PTA. Some of their parents are staying, so they are still sorting out which positions will need to be filled for next year. After they have their PTA meeting next week, we will receive a Signup Genius that will let us know what roles need filling. Their president encourages all of the new parents to check out their web site and Facebook page. Their PTA is in good shape, financially and otherwise. Catoctin will be having an open house for new families soon. Mike Pellegrino says the open house is tentatively scheduled on April 15th, the Teacher Workday, from 1:30-2:30 pm. The members discussed the fact that not everyone knows that the 28s have been rezoned. Maureen explained that any issues with asbestos in the Catoctin School building are known, understood, and being addressed by the school district. Any questions about it should be directed to the principal of the school. Dan Lani discussed that there is a procedure in place to transition children who have IEPs, 504s, and who are in child study, so the transition will be smooth. The members discussed that the 28s want to leave something as a legacy of their time at EMES, perhaps a time capsule, a tree, or a buddy bench, for example.

Backpack Buddies (BPB): Kim Noel will stay on to make sure the program continues at EMES, then she will leave it under the control of the new parents. She is now on the board for Backpack Buddies of Loudoun, so she will continue to be involved anyway. Maureen offered to add BPB to the Signup Genius for open PTA positions to help find volunteers for it at EMES for next year. Mrs. Noel also discussed upcoming Backpack Buddy events.

End of Year Party: Maureen Kirk asked for a motion to add an end of the year celebration, scheduled for June 10th. Michelle Taliaferro moved to approve the motion. Lisbeth Immel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Yearbook Idea: Kim Noel suggested ensuring every child gets a yearbook. Mr. Pellegrino and others pointed out that it would be cost prohibitive.

Environmental Enhancements: Diane Peratt is interested in donating a tree and the crew to plant it as a legacy.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11th, at 7:00 pm in the gym, preceded by a "Meet the Principal" night for the new families. The meeting was originally going to be in the morning. Michelle Taliaferro suggested that we hold a separate meeting for the current members that morning, then just play host to the new people that evening.

Lisbeth Immel moved that we adjourn the meeting, and Kirsten Shabanowitz provided a second. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.