

Parents & Teachers of Eastview (PTE) Minutes of September 9, 2013 Meeting

7:03 P.M. - Meeting called to order

Kelly Jatczak welcomed all of the parents, teachers and administrators to the first meeting of the 2013-14 school year. An introduction of the current board was made and an announcement of that the position of secretary is open for anyone who might be interested.

Treasurer's Report

Gigi Bendis provided the current status of the PTE account including funds deposited and checks issued. Gigi recapped expenditures and deposits that occurred after the end of school last spring and prior to this meeting. Gigi shared that currently the PTE has a balance of \$50 in petty cash and a discussion as to if petty cash was necessary took place. PTE no longer sponsors events that may require a need to keep cash on hand. It was determined that if there is a need for cash we can take the necessary steps to make sure that is available. Gigi Bendis motioned to deposit the \$50 in petty cash into the PTE bank account. Sandy Martin seconded, 12 voted in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention - motion carried.

Gigi Bendis reported with the current deposit of membership dues and eScript the balance as of September 9th was \$4,757.87. She shared that she projects an additional \$700 to \$800 to be deposited before October in membership dues.

Gigi Bendis presented the preliminary PTE budget for the 2013-2014 school year. She covered line by line items as to expenditures and income. Additional discussion took place regarding resources for additional income. Current resources include Niccodino's Restaurant purchases where 10% of your bill is donated to Eastview. Target Red Card program – sign up to donate funds to Eastview through the Target Red Card program. This program is facilitated directly with Eastview and not through PTE but is a good resource for fundraising for the school. A question was posed regarding collecting Box Tops for Education. We currently do not do this as a fundraiser but would if we had a volunteer to coordinate. A question from the floor was posed regarding collecting any fees for returned checks. Gigi Bendis did share that all attempts are made as through last year only 1 check for under \$15 had been recouped. In presenting the budget, Gigi Bendis did state that the line item for Step Up To Writing/Handy Pages currently listed at \$2000 should be adjusted to \$2300.00 Sandy Martin moved to approve the 2013-2014 budget with the recommended adjustment. Tim Turner seconded, 12 voted in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention - motion carried.

Sandy Martin asked Principal Donner what is the focus on fundraising for this year if the necessary money had been raised to install all of the needed intruder locks in the building. Mr. Donner shared that the goal would shift to technology. The school is still in need of Smartboards for a number of classrooms as well as software to support these boards.

Committee Reports:

Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) – Citizens Advisory Council is a group which meets the first Thursday of each month at Elgin High School at 7 o'clock in the evening. Parents can attend to learn more about the goals and focus which affect the entire district in a number of areas including, finance, curriculum, legislation, family and community engagement and facilities and enrollment. Each committee has subcommittees that put together recommendations for the U 46 Board of Education. Each school is eligible to have up to 5 representatives for voting purposes. Sandy Martin and Karen Mechant have volunteered to represent Eastview.

Dance Committee – The first dance hosted by the Student Council will be held Friday, September 13th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Eric Z from Kiss FM will be the D.J. and a photo booth will be available for students. Tickets will be sold for \$5 each during lunch beginning Tuesday 9/10. Future dances include a Halloween Dance on Friday, October 18th where students may come in costume. In addition to the dance there will be a movie and a costume contest. Chaperones are needed for the dances. Vickie Mazzei is the Chaperone Coordinator and will be looking for 5 to 7 parents to help at each dance. Additionally she will be asking for donations of snack items that can be offered to the students. Snacks can be homemade or store bought but need to be peanut free. Dances are sponsored by the Student Council and additional questions were posed to Mrs. Nammari, co-advisor with Mr. Baker for the Student Council. Decorating for the dance will start at 4:30 p.m. if parents would like to help. Some students who serve on the council will also volunteer to help. It was noted that if 100 tickets were not sold by the end of lunch Friday afternoon, the dance may need to be cancelled.

Mrs. Nammari also shared that the student council will be working this year to do service projects including a food drive in November and a hat and coat drive in December. She also asked families to look around their homes for unopened items that could be donated to be used as rewards for the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports PBIS program started this year.

eScript Program – This program is an opportunity to raise money for Eastview by shopping at Dominick's. In the past a portion of the funds raised through this program were used to promote healthy living and fitness. Changes to the program this year may include a quarterly issuance of a check rather than a monthly deposit into the PTE checking account. Past purchases include fitness equipment that is now in the small gym. P.E. program working on teaching children how to create a healthy lifestyle that includes fitness. Suggestions came up to communicate more to parents via the school news letter and PTE webpage regarding eScript and upcoming special dates where certain purchases can earn extra money for this program.

Website/Communication committee – Chairperson Donna Hall provided Kelly Jatczak with a brief report. Please contact Kelly with any items to be added to the PTE calendar. Future items to be included will be dates for PTE meetings and school dances. A parent in attendance at the meeting offered to have her husband assist Donna with the PTE website. He is currently the webmaster for the Bartlett Elementary School website.

A volunteer to create a data base with current parent emails is needed. The emails would be used to create email blasts communicating upcoming events and important dates.

Administration Report

Principal Donner shared that The Howler which is the Eastview Newsletter will be available on the school's webpage no later than Thursday, September 12th. Newsletters will no longer be sent home in hard copy in an effort to be green as well as to save money in printing costs.

Mr. Donner also provided an update as to the door lock initiative. Between last year's fundraising efforts by the PTE and student council along with a private donation locks have been purchased and installed in all of the upper level classrooms except for the band/orchestra/chorus room. Locks are \$270 each. The locks are designed to safely lock from within the classroom as well as outside to ensure student safety in the event of a lock down. This year the PTE would like to once again raise funds to help purchase the remaining needed locks by selling Butterbraids pastries. Sale of the pastries is scheduled for the spring. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Last year 80 families participated raising roughly \$2500. The question was posed to Mr. Donner about how many locks are still needed to outfit the rest of the school with the locks. He would have the final number available for the October meeting. PTE is also in need of a volunteer or volunteers that would be

willing to put together a list of local businesses and/or sponsors that could be contacted to consider donating to this project. The suggestion was made that a committee could be put together to divide up the list to be able to reach out to a number of businesses as one time.

Mr. Donner discussed the distribution of Handy Pages that will take place within the 7th Grade English classes within the next few weeks. This tool is a resource that students will use to help them be better writers. Students are encouraged to use them throughout their school years as a reference.

The School Improvement Plan (S.I.P.) Team is in need of 2 parent volunteers. One each from 7th and 8th grade. The goal is to have the 7th grade parent also be involved in the following year and then going forward have a 7th grade parent volunteer for this 2 year team. The SIP Team meets twice a month, once in the morning and once in the afternoon to address goals of the building and determine the best way to implement initiatives set forth by the district. SIP meetings may move to meeting twice a month in the morning if that works better for the group. Parent input is important in these decisions. The goal of having a parent on the team for 2 years is to create continuity in developing long term goals for the team.

The new grading scale was presented by Mr. Donner. The scale is being implemented throughout the district and the middle and high school level. Parents have voiced their concerns about how confusing it is and if it is effective. Mr. Donner recommended a book written by Rick Wormeli, *Fair Isn't Always Equal* that provides an in-depth and excellent explanation of this grading system and why it is successful. Students are still getting the traditional grades that parents are used to but it provides a better opportunity for evaluating a student's true learning of concepts and skills. CAC will be sending out a survey in the near future for parents to weigh in on their opinion of the new system. Mr. Donner would be available to answer any questions or concerns regarding the new system.

New Business

Kelly Jatczak shared that we are in need of a secretary for the PTE as well as a chairperson to create an email list that would be used for communications. The PTE is also in need of a volunteer or volunteers to organize Teacher Appreciation. PTE sponsors a dinner in October for teachers and staff during conferences. This year it will be October 24th. The PTE also sponsors a luncheon in May during Teacher Appreciation Week to honor the teachers and staff.

A fundraising effort of a no-cook night with Chili's was presented by Cindy Carvey. She mentioned that Chili's will donate 20% of purchases made to benefit Eastview on a specific night. She offered to contact Chili's to find dates that are available.

Mr. Donner spoke about the district's effort to put together an informative workshop for parents that addresses the recent drug epidemic now faced by schools. Eastview will be putting together a workshop with Bartlett High School in the near future. Mr. Donner will share additional details as soon as they are available.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Turner, Sandy Martin seconded. 12 in favor, 0 nays, 1 abstention – motion carried.

8:35p.m. meeting adjourned

Next meeting – Monday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m