

El Sierra PTA Meeting Minutes

1st regular meeting of the 2016-17 school year

Monday, September 26, 2016

Submitted by: Maria Wootton

Members in Attendance: Rose LaRue-Slater, Beth McIntosh, Jason Lynde, Vann Bennett, Dara Tuscano, Melissa Flasz, Marie Jackson, Dione Swierczynski, Casey Betourney, Sara Deacy, Beth Szopko, Brienne Harris, Cinda Lester, Leslie Opila, Maria Wootton

School Board Members in Attendance: Mr. John Miller and Mrs. Roberta Diehl, along with District 58 Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli

President Rose LaRue-Slater called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

I. **Dr. Cremascoli**

- A. Dr. Cremascoli handed out the District's Strategic Goals Action Plan for 16/17. She discussed the goals for the school year as outlined in the document.
- B. They are looking at the goals for iPads vs. Chromebooks to align with the high school.
- C. They have a demographer coming to look at school enrollment numbers and what that means for the future.

II. Remarks by the school board. The school board members are happy to be here to answer questions and hear what is going on at the individual schools.

- A. Question to the school board - about playground equipment...who does the funding?
 - 1. They answered that it is usually up to the PTA to fund this in the budget. The school district maintains the equipment and the surrounding materials, but as far as replacing the actual equipment...the school board looks to the PTA to raise these funds. When a safety issue arises with the playground equipment, the maintenance department will work with the school to address the issue for the safety of the students, as this always comes first.

2. The issue of the playground step at El Sierra was brought up, and stated that it cannot be repaired, it must be replaced. The district will pay to repair or replace the missing step, but not the entire piece of equipment.

B. Question to the school board about full day kindergarten - space issues, and moving to a model of a middle school 6-8th grade campus to alleviate this issue.

1. The answer was this was not likely for a variety of reasons. All elementary schools have enough space for K-6th, except Lester, including the OKeep program. But they are having the demographer coming in to analyze enrollment trends to look at this issue.
2. Going to 6-8th middle school campuses would mean putting it to a referendum within the community.

C. The school board has gotten feedback from the community that the community really likes the neighborhood school system.

III. MELISSA FLASZA GAME NIGHT UPDATE

- A. Neutral zone closed. Looking for a new venue.
- B. Most venues are expensive - around \$1000.
- C. Another idea - could we use the school gym? Not with alcohol.
- D. Mr. Bennett suggested the park district. They have a liquor license.
- E. American legion still an option - but still costs \$400 with needing to provide a bartender and open bar, but have to use their alcohol.
- F. Looking for a place and a contract. Hopefully by next month. Looked at Chuck's - too expensive! Still waiting to hear back from a couple vendors, like the Moose Lodge and others.

IV. Principal's Report: Mr. Lynde

- A. Playground fundraising: Mr. Lynde looked at some catalogs - \$65,000 to replace the structure here at school. Something like at McCollum would be around \$100,000. He would want it to be utilized by the maximum amount of kids.
- B. Cost of the playground will increase in a five year plan which is about what it would take to raise the money for a new structure.
- C. Fundraising needs to have a specific purpose to be fruitful in raising funds for a new playground. Come up with a fund campaign (like bricks, etc.)

- D. Rose will put out an ask for a committee for playground fundraiser.
- E. Executive Board will address the immediate need for the fixing of the playground.
- F. Brienne reached out to Hillcrest about their Gaga Pit.

OTHER: Mr. Lynde

- A. On Friday, students will receive student assessment reports from MAP, PARCC scores and others. He encourages us to look at the growth from fall to fall because it gives the best picture of student learning.
- B. PARCC is used to make instructional decisions.
- C. MAP and PARCC correlation - when you read MAP scores, 50% is passing for grade level. When you read PARCC scores, 78% is passing for grade level.
- D. MAP projects student growth across the whole school, even with differences in individual student scores.
- E. El Sierra students continue to grow across the entire school population. Dr. Rich will include a letter with the testing result sheets to help explain the scoring.

Dr. Cremascoli explained that PARCC testing scores do not tie with funding for the schools at all. But the PARCC testing scores are used for things like school report cards. She stated that there are many measures of school success, but the state does require PARCC testing.

- F. Email Blasts. There has been some parent feedback regarding emails from Mr. Lynde not covering important items.
 - 1. Cinda is printing papers that go home in color to see which papers are coming back from the school and which are being printed from home.
 - 2. There was a discussion regarding a designated day for email blasts and/or paper copies going home. Mr. Bennett spoke for the teachers that it shouldn't be an issue to put the paper copies in the backpacks, but it's more of an issue to save paper.
 - 3. Mr Lynde also has an email list for Spanish speaking families.
 - 4. Beth McIntosh would be interested in looking into a PTA newsletter to get information out. Dr. Cremascoli said most schools utilize a weekly or biweekly PTA newsletter email blast.

5. There was a report that El Sierra currently has roughly 98/160 families enrolled in the PTA.
6. Rose stated that it is preferred to have the Principal email everyone, not just PTA members, so that everyone gets information.

V. Teacher Report: Mr Bennett

- A. MAP data is being analyzed. Math and reading groups are being formed.
- B. Safety patrol up and running.
- C. Recess leaders are leading games for k-2.
- D. School families start next week.
- E. 6th grade goes to Camp Edwards next week.

VI. Officer Reports

A. President - Rose LaRue-Slater

1. Fun Lunch subsidy Motion/Vote

We will continue to spend and charge \$4 for fun lunch. PTA can subsidize fun lunch, not sure it can afford it. Fun Lunch Committee Chair Dara Tuscano is looking into fees for credit card use for next year. Looking at taking a vote to subsidize fun lunch at a cap of \$1000 for this school year. Otherwise fun lunch needs to end.

2. Executive Board will take a closer look at the October meeting.

3. **Rose motioned to subsidize Fun Lunch at a cap of \$1000 for this school year. Cinda Lester seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.**

B. President - Beth McIntosh

4. There will be no paper copies of membership cards next year.

5. We will be acquiring the Indian Trail stencils which include yoga poses and hopscotch for use on playground.

6. Beth had some questions needing answers that needed to be brought back to the PTA council. Some of these included Zoup fundraising, and El Sierra's goals for the school year. These will be tabled for Executive Board meeting.

C. Treasurer - Brienne Harris

1. 2015-16 Audit. The accountant looked over the audit and approved it.
2. **Rose moved to approve the audit. Cinda Lester seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed.**
3. Oversight for committee spending – budget & profits
TABLED TO EXEC BOARD MEETING
4. Brienne presented current year budget. She handed out the 2016/2017 Budget Sheet at the meeting and discussed all the entries. Some discussion included Rose starting up the ink cartridge drive soon, encouraging Amazon Smile and Box Tops funds with a drive.
 - a. Budget is negative over \$11,000. Same situation as last year. Need a Fun Run push for support with the parents. 25% of funds came in after the race last year. Rose will send an email with the budget needs and why people need to support the Fun Run.
 - b. Gaga Pit. Mr. Lynde had some concerns over the Gaga Pit that he addressed. The cost would be \$4700 for one Gaga Pit. He has concerns over the flooring. It does not hold up over time. Different floors present different issues (wood chips fly up, rubber, dirt gets muddy with rain, etc.) He doesn't want to spend that amount of money if it's not going to hold up over time. He stated that the kids would like it, but wants it to be worth getting. Flooring is the issue.

5. **Rose moved to approve the budget. Melissa Flasz seconded. All were in favor. None opposed.**

D. 1st VP Family Programs - Beth Szopko

1. Freaky Friday is all set. Help needed for the event. Her husband will be the DJ. DJ will need playlists/music. He has all the equipment. Dione will do face painting.
2. Breakfast with Santa. Booked.
3. Valentine's Skate party. Booked.

E. 3rd VP Membership - Sara Deacy

1. 98 families registered so far this year. Last year 99 families registered.
2. We have a few committee members not yet joined this year.
3. 33 teachers, and all are registered with the PTA.
4. We have less families this year signed up overall. 3rd grade has the least amount of families signed up. 4th and 6th grade are the highest numbers. Final push at the Fun Run. Wanting to get the PTA directory out.

VII. **Committee Reports**

- A. Room Moms. Cinda Lester. Information will go out soon with the students. Room moms will be emailed.
- B. Reflections - Beth Riley absent. Information out soon.
- C. Directory – Lisa Westover. Cinda will meet with Lisa to show her how to do a merge for directory data.
- D. Caine's Arcade – Cinda Lester. All cardboard was used last week. Yogurt cups, cardboard tubes needed...anything that a ball can be thrown into is really needed. Needs Manna prize cards in \$5/\$10 amounts.
- E. Spirit Wear – Brienne Harris. Currently use Holy Cow Sports. This year shorts, mesh performance shirt, hats, etc. was added. Sale starts Friday. Flyers will be at Fun Run.
- F. Box Tops – Leslie Opila. Nov 1st next deadline.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm