

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL  
PTO Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - 9:00am**

**Meeting was called to order at 9:02am**                      **Melissa Mitchell, PTO President**

**Approval of Minutes**    **Amanda Millwood, PTO Recording Secretary**

**\* Minutes from the previous school year were not available to approve**

**DISTRICT UPDATE**

***School Board Representative - Natalie Bernecker***

- Gave a brief background on herself and encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election for which she is seeking reelection as president of the Board of Education.
- Posed a question as to the effectiveness and best way to communicate district news. The Board is looking into ways to improve their communication to parents and community.
- Town Hall Meeting – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm
- Natalie introduced EGRPS Superintendent new hire, Dr. Kattula.

***Superintendent - Dr. Heidi Kattula***

- Gave a background of herself and talked about the start of the new school year which is off to a busy, great start with 31 new hires in the district, current school parent meetings and curriculum nights for Middle & High Schools.
- Also spoke about the recent opportunity to meet with a diverse group of students to promote a student agency to reflect on what they think about school issues and reflect on opportunities that need to happen in order to grow. New parent survey will be coming out in October to get input.

**EGRHS UPDATE**

***Teacher Representative - Janet Tombre***

- Reported school off to a good start.

***Principal - Craig Weigel***

- Began with mentioning a resource for information about schools in our area: “School News Network”, is a website to use for finding positive information about our schools.
- Photo presentation of new district staff hires: including 3 at the high school:  
Zach Wiener – Science/Chemistry & coach  
Katie Rietkirk – Health ED, CPR & First Aid certified  
Kris Waschbusch – LC Coordinator  
*Matthew Putnam – not new to district but new to HS as PE & new Current Issues class*  
*Stephanie Diepstra – not new to district but new HS Social Worker*
- It was reported that for the first time the HS staff was able to meet with students prior to the first football game – this is important because it gave the opportunity to speak to them and share thoughts about expectations for the upcoming year. Class meetings were held – emphasized creating “House Rules” for seniors looking forward to the upcoming year. Last year’s seniors had an opportunity to impact incoming seniors by writing senior letters which were presented to them at the class meeting and will be through the year. During these class

meetings Mr. Johnson talks to each class about the classes about the broad perspective of supporting all athletics. Guidance office speaks about what needs to occur throughout the year & what needs to happen for senior requirements. Mr. Wojciechowski discusses general reminders for attendance and expectations and consequences.

- Freshman Forum – September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm
- A new program, “OK2Say”, was shared with students. This program is similar in format to Silent Observer and is another safe and anonymous way for students to report anything of concern.
- Also reviewed with students was the new ID badge initiative and what doors are open at what times.

#### ***Guidance - Lori Johnston***

- Reports that the guidance office has met with Seniors by classroom to cover important upcoming college application process & requirements. Upcoming college application workshop will be held on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> & Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Please use the Guidance Office Webpage as a resource – most all questions can be answered there.
- PSAT & NMSQT are coming up.
- Will be meeting with freshman to encourage them to use resources available to them.
- A blast will always be sent out following a class meeting to empower parents to facilitate discussions. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> is the end of the making period.

#### **FOUNDATION UPDATE**

##### ***EGR Schools Foundation Executive Director - Amy Stuursma***

- Reported that \$170k in grants are being distributed into the schools in various forms including books, para educators, program & language support and much more.
- The Community Service and Distinguished Alumni Dinner will be held on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at Thousand Oaks honoring Elizabeth Welch and Fritz Schaefer.

#### **LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

##### ***Chair - Char Montpetit***

- LYD umbrella oversees student events such as Freshman Connection and Senior Retreat. LYD is working this year to get their name out there and all welcomes new members.

#### **ACADEMIC BOOSTER UPDATE**

- Looking for a co-chair with food & meal planning experience to help with the progressive dinner.

#### **MUSIC BOOSTER UPDATE**

- The music boosters provide financial support for the music programs in the entire district, not just the high school.
- Currently looking for a choir liaison.
- First meeting on the Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned @ 10:04am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amanda Millwood, PTO Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting – November 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am in the HS Learning Commons**