

Edgewood Magnet PTO

Meeting Minutes

9.14.23

1. Welcome – Stephanie P at 5:34pm

1. Stephanie welcomed everyone to the first PTO meeting of the new year. New arrangement for the new year with a Co-Op style replacing the old President/VP etc format.

1. 38 people joining us

2. Land Acknowledgement / Group Agreements

1. Yari introduced herself and read the land acknowledgement

3. Introduce New Board & Review New Format

1. Stephanie P introduced new board members

1. Christine – parent of a 3rd grader
2. Dan – parent of a 4th & 10th grader
3. Yari – Parent of a 2nd grader
4. Jane – Parent of a 4th grader
5. Stephanie B – Parent of a 3rd & K student
6. Ana – Parent of a 3rd & 5th grader

4. Treasurer's Report – Stephanie P

1. Account access transfer has occurred.
2. Current account balance is \$16,619.63
 1. Around \$2k earmarked as donations made specifically for the Playground
 2. Pending deposits/donations
3. Requests for funding
 1. Ms. Platt's cooking enrichment course request

1. As part of Wednesday enrichment program (ECHO), teachers are encouraged to choose a topic they are passionate about to teach. Ms. Platt is interested in teaching Vegetarian Cooking. Has taken a food safety course and been studying vegetarian cooking.
 1. Simple practical meals that can be made at school
 1. Ex. Simple Marinara Sauce with 3 Different Types of Pasta
 2. 10-12 students
 1. Early interest from students has been positive
 3. Created a sample shopping cart: \$32 and would need some additional staples (cutting & prep mats, chef hats, etc.)
 4. Question: Are there ECHO Funds for the year?
 1. Dr. Perrone – There are some funds but they are being depleted quickly. Not accessible quickly and this need is more urgent than those funds may be needed.
 5. Suggestion from Chat: Can a wishlist be put together?
 6. Suggestion from Chat: Common Ground Farm Director is an Edgewood K parent. Maybe she can help?
 1. Reply in Chat: Deborah can donate some veggies from common ground for the sauce
 7. Question: Is there are process for contributing to ECHO, earmarked for a particular class or otherwise?
 8. Suggestion from Chat: IKEA has affordable cutting boards and knives.

9. Question: Is there a basic wish list dollar amount (based on 12)?

10. Question: When is the first ECHO?

1. Next Week is Preview and Start on the Week of September 25th

11. Question: Is there a position to vote on funding this evening?

1. Short time frame of need with ECHOs starting soon.

12. Question: Does anyone know if Edgewood will have a FoodCorps member this year?

13. Suggestion from Yari to put together an itemized list and the PTO can help through Sign-Up Genius to collect donations from the community.

14. Dr. Perrone: \$42 collected through school Venmo at Election Bake Sale.

1. Stephanie B: \$308 in cash raised at Bake Sale plus \$25 from the first Café' Edgewood

2. Stephanie summarized action plan: Ms. Platt to create a list of items and Yari & Dan will work on creating a [Sign-up Genius](#).

3. No Motion made

5. Committee Overview & Reports

1. Fundraising – Stephanie shared that the budget for 23-24 is in progress

1. Budget discussion/Funding Requests

2. Book Fair (Dan)

1. Fall bookfair is a fundraiser (Week of October 16th)

1. [Volunteer Sign-Up](#) is available in the [Weekly Leaf](#)
 1. Thursday prior to set-up day
 2. Friday before is a preview day for the teachers to identify books for classrooms and for recommendations.
 3. Please see Dan if there are any questions.
2. Both fairs have the goal of getting books into the hands of kids and have been very successful in doing that
 1. Work closely with the teachers and Ms. Lucky to discretely identify need and make sure kids leave with a book or two.
3. Music Department Fundraisers – No point person yet but they are doing a lot of fundraisers
 1. Dr. Perrone met with Ms. Natter and there is a long list of initiatives that they are hoping to do this year. They are hoping to identify grants that may be able to help fund some of the activities (awaiting pass through SPMT). Once they pass through SPMT, events will appear on the school calendar.
4. Bag of Books/Election Day Fundraiser (Nick)
 1. Dr. Perrone acknowledges the large turnout at the meeting, including many staff!
 2. Hoping to re-home of a whole bunch of books that the school had left over from classroom moves.
 1. New libraries supplies by district from ESSR Funds
 2. Overflowing shelves and kids are learning that there are books that are free to take home.

3. School would like to do a big bag sale during Election Day
in coordination with PTO bake sale and hopefully fill those
bags with books!
4. Volunteers will be needed as well as bag donations
 1. Suggestion: Kids at aftercare can help decorate
bags
5. Comment in the chat: New books are wonderful and
include a lot of diversity in topics, representation, etc.
5. Movie Night – New Date (Stephanie B)
 1. Rescheduled for: (Friday) October 13th at 6:30pm
 2. Field across from the school. PTO will be able to sell concession
to raise money. Volunteer and donation sign-up dropped in chat
and will be sent out in Leaf.
6. Café Edgewood (Stephanie B)
 1. Sign-Up to volunteer at Café Edgewood dropped in chat and in
Leaf
 2. Stephanie explained: Café Edgewood happens every other Friday
with student performers in the lobby. PTO looks for parent
volunteers to help provide/sell coffee/tea and baked goods
7. Headphone sale at Open House (Stephanie B)
 1. Ms. Boynton – No funds this year to provide headphones
 1. Suggestion to have headphones at the Open House and
sell as an affordable option.
 1. Bulk Purchase = \$2/pair and can be sold for \$5/pair

2. Suggestion in chat: Option to buy them from your own kid or buy them for someone else who needs them.
 3. PTO can donate unsold headphones to the school
 4. Dr. Perrone: There may be funds to buy headphones and will follow-up with Ms. Clarke on need.
6. Volunteer Report – Dan dropped link in chat of the volunteer report
 1. Introducing volunteer report (Dan)
 1. List of opportunities available at the school
 1. Next up: Looking for help moving new Assistant Principal from Hillhouse to Edgewood
 2. Teacher Helpers: Able to have volunteers back in the building but anyone who interacts with the kids needs to be cleared by the district. Teachers have final call of whether volunteers will come into the classroom.
 3. Library Help: Starting off the year needing help
 1. Wall of scholastic readers needs to be moved into the conference room
 1. Dr. Perrone: A few students came in and started the process of moving those books. Ongoing support (consistent day/time) will be needed, even 1 hour per week.
 1. Comment in chat from (Una): I can help for an hour on a Thursday or Friday

2. Comment in chat from (Stephanie B): I am willing to help
 3. Question in chat: Am thinking this is for daytime hours?
 1. Dr. Perrone: Yes, during the day would be best, however, after school is possible
2. 31 cleared parents already, including 2 newly cleared this year.
 1. PTO webpage has a fillable form
 2. Turnaround is quick, sometimes in the same day for clearance
 3. Volunteers can do 1 event without being cleared and Ms. Lucky can help with questions.
7. Yari introduced a Committee list to help organize the events and opportunities happening during the school year. There's a lot happening and we would love to hear about the strengths and talents of the community and what you'd like to share
 1. Link dropped in chat with description/responsibilities of the committees and meeting schedule if applicable
 1. Opportunity to sign-up and get involved with specific projects
 1. Next up: Open House and Literary Costume Ball
8. Welcome Committee (Melissa/Averi)
 1. Melissa - Committee started as a way for families to come together and build connections.
 1. Comment in the chat: We really appreciated the meet ups!!
 2. Events over the summer (Results)

1. 3 Kindergarten meet-ups over the summer were very successful and a lot of fun

3. Upcoming Events

1. October 14th – Lake Wintergreen

1. Start Time –TBD
2. Opportunity to walk around at your own pace. Lots to check out.

9. Literary Costume Ball – Thursday, October 26th 5pm-7pm

1. Christina makes a call for volunteers. One of the biggest events of the year and usually needs a lot of volunteers.
2. Ana added that the event is a lot of fun and needs a lot of support (planning, donation of food items, activities, set-up/clean-up)
3. Stephanie added that Mitchel Librarian will be there to help people sign up for library cards and promote literacy. Also reached out to New Haven Reads

10. Generating ideas for connecting with middle school families (Jane/Dan)

1. Jane – Encouraged people to reach out to middle school parents and welcomed people to share their school connection in the chat (which grades are represented)
 1. Mostly 4 and under in the chat
2. Jane – Asked 4th grade parents why they are joining the PTO and what they see in their kids.
 1. Dr. Perrone: Valentine Dance by student senate was a really well attended event that included more middle school aged students than other events. Arts Night also is popular with the Middle School. Suggestion: more dance type events.
 2. Stephanie B: involved the Student Senate in movie selection and hopeful that means more will come out to that event

3. Jane suggested inviting the student senate to the next meeting to get their feedback on what they would like to see.
 1. Ms. Lucky will mention at the next Student Senate meeting and hopefully can encourage student representation at the PTO.
11. Stephanie P invited people to share thoughts and questions in the chat.
12. Edgewood PTO By-Laws – Yari made a call for volunteers to help revise the By-Laws and update. If interested send name and contact information in the chat.
 1. Response: Laura Brown: By-laws are my jam. I can help with that.
13. Admin Corner – Dr. Perrone shared link to the school calendar in the chat. It is updated frequently, so please be sure to check it periodically.
 1. Open House Next Wednesday (September 20th) in Person
 1. Hybrid is not effective and hoping to get all the 6th grade families because they are going to Natures Classroom this year.
 2. Enrolled in a science of reading master class
 1. Oral language is natural part of being but written/reading is not, so the brain needs to be rewired for that skill.
 2. Literacy remains a focus and reading is fundamental to every subject
 3. Student engagement
 1. Looking for more feedback from students about how they learn and helping them understand their style
 4. GROW – Acronym to help establish common language around expectations in school and how everyone conducts themselves.
 5. Edgewood does not do traditional staff meetings and gives teachers individual choice
 1. Choose a topic to learn about and works with a cohort (ex. Culture and Climate). Teachers will lead and the approach embeds choice.

6. Youth and Family Engagement – Leaf is a great resource that is sent out by Ms. Lucky.
7. Big construction project on the near horizon
 1. Facilities department will be creating a ramp leading out of the nurses area. This will require widening the door, hallway etc. Nurses’ office will need to move temporarily and the carpet in the library will need to come up. Exciting but this will force a change in the dismissal location over the next couple of weeks. SPMT will meet and discuss.
8. New Staff Intros
 1. New Assistant Principal: Ms. Rice – Starting on Monday (9/18)
9. Question: Stephanie B – Will any information come out about Open House (ex. Teacher sessions).
 1. Dr. Perrone: Will be sent out in the Leaf and website will be updated with the information
10. Question: Stephanie B – New teachers not set-up on Dojo, when will new emails be approved? Currently no way to contact teacher.
 1. [Dr. Perrone: Waiting on IT. Hoping to have that approved soon, not sure about the delay.](#)
11. Dr. Perrone: Major shout out to Andrew Swartzell who helped recreate new bathroom sign designs for new All Gender Bathrooms – Look exactly the original signs.
12. 23-24 Meeting Schedule
 1. Stephanie mentioned that the next meeting is on October 12th on the same Zoom link.
13. Stephanie adjourned at 7:01pm