

Edina High School PTO Meeting 4/9/2025

Members Present: Sharon Kimes (President), Lynn Schmitt (Treasurer), Yasmin Khan (Secretary), Todd Schenk (Membership Chair), Melis Candir (Grants Chair), Angella McGarvey (Hospitality Chair)

Guests Present: Michael Birdman (Edina School Board member), Kathy Rendleman (Edina Education Fund Executive Director), Sarah Burgess (Edina High School teacher)

Hospitality Update (Angella McGarvey):

The Not Me Program is this Saturday. This has been promoted. We are looking for about 30 more people to sign up. Sharon will pass messaging on to the middle schools if the organization is ok with 8th graders. Lynn will be there at the beginning of the program to help with any registration and payment needs.

The Edina Scholar Event is April 30 from 5-6 pm in the EHS Activity Center. Invitations have been sent out. There are four volunteers on the sign up genius currently and Sharon will be there with Angella.

Cake Day will likely be May 1. Angella is meeting with the counselors next week to discuss details.

Teacher Appreciation Week is in early May. Angella will put together baskets for the different departments.

The Scholarship Breakfast will be May 23, before school. We should not need additional volunteers but PTO members are welcome to come.

The Senior Graduation Meeting is where seniors get their yearbooks and caps and gowns. PTO usually supplies a treat. Angella will connect with Mike Pretasky (Assistant Principal) on the timing.

Taco Truck for the staff will be happening again at the end of the school year. May have an ice cream truck as well, with an option for students to purchase ice cream.

Edina Education Fund Presentation (Kathy Rendleman):

The Ed Fund serves all students across Edina Public Schools. About 50% of school funding comes from per pupil funding from the state, 18% from other state sources, 28% from city taxes and referendums, and 2% from the federal government. This leaves a funding gap of about \$4 million. The Ed Fund works on filling the gap. The first way to improve the gap is to lobby for funding from the government. The second is balancing the district's budget. The third job is fundraising for things that can't be completed in the budget.

Since 1995 the Ed Fund has provided over \$8.5 million in grants to Edina Public Schools. Ed Fund programs go directly to the schools in areas of literacy, mental health and STEAM. Ed Fund services are

activities that run through the Ed Fund to help with fundraising; this includes high school activities and clubs.

The goal for STEAM programs is \$81,000 this year, including the arts. About one third of that money goes to the high school due to the number of students. Some goes to consumables such as supplies for PTLW classrooms and upkeep of the science rooms. \$120,000 is budgeted for mental health and wellness. The majority of that goes to students who don't have mental health coverage, with the school social worker deciding who needs this assistance. Some funding goes to staff mental health. A new app will be rolling out to support well being for teachers.

This year the Ed Fund has been asked to raise \$350,000 for literacy. The funds will go to the third year of the science of reading programming for teachers. This training is required by the state and the cost per teacher ranges from \$3,740 and \$7,110, to pay the time card wage for teachers for the training.

Edina High School teacher Sarah Burgess shared about the science of reading programming. The LETRS training is helping fill gaps with students with foundational issues. Aspire training improves teaching around vocabulary development.

Be a Hornet Day is coming up. This will be a city wide day, encouraging all graduates of Edina to post a picture in green hornet wear and make a gift back to their alma mater. There will be a push to become a sustaining donor and match opportunities. This is a new event but the plan is to have it the first Friday in May every year.

President Update (Sharon Kimes):

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Wish Lists will be pushed again around teacher appreciation week. Sharon will suggest teachers update and prioritize their lists before the end of April when the PTO newsletter will push this out to parents.

Be a Hornet Day is May 2. The plan at the high school is to get 3-4 food trucks that will be outside in the bus area during student lunch times. The plan was approved for any proceeds from this specific event to go to the Ed Fund.

Nicole is doing an excellent job with communication. Currently the PTO Instagram account has 155 followers. Send any news or event items to Nicole.

School Board Update (Michael Birdman):

The Interim Superintendent Dr Daniel Bittman will start April 18.

There is a detailed plan for graduation this year to work on fewer disruptions. Mike Pretasky presented the process and the feedback from last year to the school board. The event will be at Mariucci again this year because a large venue is needed.

Treasurer Update (Lynn Schmitt):

There has not been a lot of spending activity from February to now.

The proposed budget for next year was presented. The main changes include an increased budget for faculty meals. Total expenses will be greater than this year by about \$900.

2025-26 proposed budget was voted on and approved.

In addition, it was voted on and approved to give \$5000 to the Ed Fund for literacy training.

Grant Business (Melis Candir):

The AVID department would like to purchase the book Naked Roommate for seniors transitioning to college. 35 copies of the book and 2 workbooks for teachers will cost \$375. Request was approved.

The History department (Stuczynski) requests \$221.48 for large post-it poster pads (2 sets of 6 will last all of next year). This was on the supply wish list but wasn't met. Request was approved.

Elections for 2025-26 EHS PTO Board:

President Elect candidate Erika LaDousa is currently on the PTO at Valley View. She was approved as president elect. The remaining positions will stay as is this year.

A Treasurer Elect is still needed as next year will be Lynn's last year.