Edina High School PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026 | 8-9:30 a.m.
Edina High School

Members Present: Nicole M, Cari L, Principal Paul P, Superintendent Dr. Dan B, Yasmin K, Jessica, Colleen D, Fred K, Todd S, Claire P, Angela M, Melis C, Sharon K

Members Absent: Erika L

Welcome & Introductions by each member stating name and kids.

Special Guest:
Dr. Daniel Bittman, Superintendent Edina Public Schools

- Dr. Bittman shared current district priorities including Technology & Safety/Security
    - A potential referendum could result in $12-14 a month for the average homeowner
    - The November Ballot will include school board elections, and 4 board members positions are open.
        - 2 current board members are seeking re-election - Karen Gabler and Michael Birdman.
    - Permanent School Fund Question on the November ballot – (this question on the ballot does not impact taxes) The fund has over 2 billion in it. If approved, EPS would receive $260,000-290,000 per year. Don't leave the question blank. A non-answer is an automatic no.

Principal's Update, Principal Paul Paetzel

- High School Redesign
    - Survey results showed lack of student sense of belonging and connection to an adult in the building. Thus, a priority is that every student feels connected and has 1 adult they can connect to. Advisory will continue to see changes from its current model so human connection and authentic relationships.
    - New advisory model will also used for internships and a capstone project
- Another priority for the High School is converting data into action items to better inform instruction.
- Teachers also continuing to ensure that students needing intervention don't fall through the cracks, and get the support they need
- Attendance is a big priority for the year.

- Daily attendance is critical. Students need to be on time and in class when the school day starts. Parking lot is a challenge and impacts kids getting to class on time. Thus, families need to allow enough time to arrive at school to ensure students are on time.
- Make up test policy is: If you are absent, you have 2 days to makeup the test. Some Students have a valid and verified absence and then receive have a 2 day extension to take the test. The problem is that as a student thinks, "I'm not confident", so parents allow an absence. This very rarely improves the test scores and disrupts the flow of the class because it delays the feedback on the test. Principal is requesting that all families help by not excusing kids, if your child feels test stress.
- The big takeaway, is that the experience is what makes EHS great and students need to be here, in the building, to be a part of it.

Approval of August Minutes

- Sharon requested a change to the August Meeting Minutes. Specifically, that the 2025 Supply drive happened in September, January and April/May. It was moved by Sharon and seconded by Nicole to approve the August meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report

- The only PTO fundraiser is Membership Dues. Our budget for the 2026-27 school year is to earn $27,000 in dues. We are only $6660 from goal, earning $20,340 in income so far from dues.

Membership Report – None

Grants Report (teachers fill out form and these are pre-approved by Principal)

- Heath Office – request for snacks - $233.57. It was moved by Sharon and seconded by Yasmin to approve the request for Health Office snacks. The motion passed.
- Beth Kryzer – Special Education Department - $300 for para recognition. It was moved by Yasmin and seconded by Sharon to approve the request for $300 from SPED. The motion passed.
- Lindsay Smeka – Science Department - $250 to provide books, they are $10 each. It was moved by Sharon and seconded by Yasmin to approve the request for Science Department books. The motion passed.
- Tess Bateman – English Department - 357.75 for book tape, this reinforces books. It was moved by Sharon, and seconded by Melis to approve the request for book tape. The motion passed.

Hospitality Report

- Get Connected Day served 215 teachers and staff.
- Conferences are Oct 8, serving dinner at 3pm prior to the start of conferences.
- Coffee cart in October or November

Marketing/Communications Report

- Instagram, FB, Newsletter monthly. Nicole looking to hand off to anyone interested in taking this on.

New Business

- Not Me Safety Training (defense training to feel safe/sexual assault and rape prevention)
    - Saturday, Jan. 30 – Noon to 2:30 p.m.
    - Helen Ferraro & Jess Ganley - Parent leaders
    - $1,000 Sponsor – Clientek
    - $500 Sponsor - ETS Sports training
    - Registration process will be in Membership Toolkit
    - Cost ~ $10 per student
- Back to School Supply Drive – $3,135 (as of 9/12/26)
    - Final reminder to teachers/staff form went out 9/14 & due on 9/16
    - Adrienne and Sharon have agreed to do shopping & distribution

Thank you for being here and supporting our school!
The next EHS PTO Meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 8-9:30 a.m