

Edina High School PTO Meeting 5/7/2025

Members Present: Sharon Kimes (President), Lynn Schmitt (Treasurer), Yasmin Khan (Secretary), Todd Schenk (Membership Chair), Melis Candir (Grants Chair), Angella McGarvey (Hospitality Chair), Kerrie Hecker (Past President), Nicole Meehan (Communications), Helen Ferraro

Guests Present: Michael Birdman (Edina School Board member)

President Update (Sharon Kimes):

The teacher appreciation supply drive has been pushed out on social media and will go out again in the Hornet Headline on Friday. The school has not asked PTO to pay for Mariucci for graduation. If that money is not needed, some money will be left in the budget that could go toward augmenting the supply drive.

The food truck event was a great success. Thanks to everyone that helped. We are considering doing this again three times next year. The goal would be 5-6 food trucks so all students can participate. There were some students late to class. Principal Paetzel is checking in with Chartwells and the teacher leads about if there are any concerns with continuing this type of event for next year.

We still need a treasurer-elect for next year. There is a parent from Southview that may be interested and Nicole will connect them with Sharon and Lynn.

Thank you from Ed Fund (Nicole) for the \$5000 gift from EHS PTO.

April meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer Update (Lynn Schmitt):

We have received about \$200 in recent donations for the supply drive.

The two grants that were approved in April have been paid. The Ed Fund donation was paid out, but doesn't show up in the budget yet. There are a few hospitality costs pending.

This year the Not Me Event did not take in the full amount of the cost, so about \$600 was subsidized by the PTO.

Hospitality Update (Angella McGarvey):

The Scholar Event last week was great and went smoother than last year's event. Thank you to the volunteers. The event is run by the school and supported by PTO. Students qualify as scholars if they have a GPA at or above 3.5 from 9th grade through the first semester of 12th grade. A scholar with

distinction has also donated a semester or more of their time to support math or reading lab. About 350 students were scholars this year and the event lasted about 35 minutes. The new interim superintendent was in attendance.

PTO also supported Cake Day for seniors which took place on May 1.

This week is Teacher Appreciation. Monday was donut day which was paid for by the school. Yesterday was snack day. Today the student council is purchasing lunch from Panera and PTO is supplying beverages. Tomorrow is ice cream day, which is supported financially by the school admin.

Lunch Staff Superhero Day is a national day. The lunch staff serves an average of 1100 students in 3 hours. \$143 was spent from hospitality on individual bundt cakes for the lunch staff, along with a personal thank you and photo op. Look for a photo of the event in the Hornet Headlines.

The school may need support around graduation for sorting of tickets and/or caps and gowns. Mike will let Angella know if and when help is needed.

The Scholarship Breakfast is coming up May 23 at St Patrick's Church. Around 280 people are expected to attend. Volunteers are not needed but PTO members are welcome at the event. Question if the school or district publishes a list of the scholarship recipients. Angella will ask about this.

End of the year celebrations for teachers and staff will include a Coffee Cart next Friday and Taco Truck on Thursday, May 29.

Not Me Event Discussion:

The PTO contributed \$628 toward the cost of the event as not enough spaces filled to cover the cost. Last year this was a break even event. This is the first year the event didn't fill. The event was publicized a lot, even before spring break. The timing could be better for some people earlier in the year, but April is sexual assault awareness month. The cost is a little high for a two hour course. Recommendation to consider charging less for the chaperone. Originally, this was for seniors heading to college then expanded to include juniors and below as it wasn't as full. The Not Me organization recommends ages 14 and up. It would be an option to offer this every other year with the goal of reaching juniors and seniors. Recommendation to promote this as a self defense course for students before college right in the headline as the Not Me title can be confusing.

Discussion on reaching the broader community with the important topic of sexual assault Michael will talk to Dr Leland about if this could be incorporated into community education. Questions if there could be a component for males as well, for example, by tying in the athletic programs.

If PTO plans to offer Not Me again, Helen Ferraro would be interested in helping with this for next year.

Communications Update (Nicole Meehan):

Nicole is working to build awareness of what PTO is doing. Photos are the most popular Instagram posts. Even things that are tangentially related to PTO can be included. Nicole will share some of what the alumni association is doing for the graduating seniors.

The website has been a big step forward this year. Jessica is continuing to manage the website. Nicole and Sharon can do some of the quicker, easier updates as well.

Discussion about incorporating the Parent Survival Handbook into the website. Yasmin will start this project with input from others on what to include from the prior handbook. Nicole and Melis are willing to help with this.

School Board Update (Michael Birdman):

Interim Superintendent Dr Bittman presented his leadership plan for the next 15 months to the school board. The meeting also included a discussion of policies and the Spanish immersion program at Countryside.

Currently the most impactful thing to the school district is what is happening in the legislature. In 2023 an ongoing minimum inflationary increase for school funding was passed. The Senate is talking about possibly undoing that now. There is a question around reducing funding to special education, including transportation. The current legislature is split, so no major changes are expected. Reach out to your representatives to ask them to keep the funding increase. Nicole can connect you with the information that was sent out through the LAC (Dan Arom) if you didn't receive it.

Michael will not be the EHS representative from the school board next year as he will have a student enrolled at the high school. He recommends continuing to be strong voices and push the administration and the board to understand what is happening in the building.

Question about past discussion of the payscale being out of balance with current staffing. In 2023 the payscale was improved at the younger end, which has improved the district's ability to be competitive in hiring teachers that are 5-7 years into teaching. It will take about 5-10 years as retirements happen to balance out. A new contract will start in 2025-26.

Wrap Up:

\$200-250 has come in as donations for the teacher wish lists so far with the recent push for teacher appreciation week. There is about \$2000 still in the grants budget that hasn't been spent this year. Proposal to push \$1200 of that into filling the teacher wish lists and the general supply list. Discussion about a clear deadline for grants to have the budget complete at the end of the year. Approved to spend \$1200 of the remaining grant money on wish lists.

Thank you to Michael for being here as our school board representative. Thank you to Sharon for leading this year and all your work.

Anticipate three evening meetings next year and the rest will be mornings.

Addendum (5/16):

Grant request approved over e-mail on 5/16: \$95.96 for EHS Options Credit Recovery summer school program for cones and stickers to create a spot for cell phones during summer school classes.