

Eastern Elementary PTO
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday | September 9th, 2020

Call to Order: 6:37pm

Welcome: President Laura Ashton

Officers Present: Laura Ashton, John Bails, Kristin Harnish, Kylie Croon

Staff Present:

Biz Ruskowski, Sarah Marek, Kathy Ferguson, Heather Asiala, Sherri Hilden, Deb Feaster, Carrie Bui, Julie Brott, Tom Cooper, Terri Christie-Lutes, Hannah Hites, K McConnell

Review of Minutes:

Biz Ruskowski motioned, deb feaster seconded May meeting minutes approval
Kylie motioned, Heather Asiala seconded Kristin as sole PTO treasurer for 20/21 School year

Principal's Report

Biz Ruskowski:

- Teachers are excited after a successful start. Attendance was great, at most, 2 people were absent from each class this week, great job!
- All elementary schools are starting 8:30am during virtual learning weeks, all tcaps elementary are using the same daytime virtual learning schedule as well. Eastern will return to 9am start when face to face learning resumes (with dismissal at 3:57pm).
- Eastern staff is so thankful for Jill and Missy in the front office, we couldn't do it without them!
- TCAPS superintendent's recommendation is for TCAPS to return to face to face learning on 9/21/20. TCAPS School board will vote on in person learning at the TCAPS board meeting Monday night 9/14/20
- What is Eastern's face-to-face learning plan?** This is not ready for release yet, but parent's can expect to hear more early next week. Handling of sick/symptomatic students will be similar to other illness criteria (students will go to the nurse's office until a guardian can pick them up from school). The Health Department dictates health and safety protocol, this is not decided by Eastern Elementary staff. All staff will review cleaning protocol next week, TCAPS has issued cleaning supplies for desks and handles. Eastern building entrance and exit protocol will be released soon. We do know there will be no morning playground time before school. Classmates will stay together with no mixing of classes. Lunch will take place in the classroom. "Hot lunch" will be a cold bag lunch delivered to classroom. Students will have mask breaks outside during recess and teachers are encouraged to do outside learning whenever possible.
- Mask wearing is a part of school now, so masks will be viewed like any other required clothing, but teachers will use their discretion as to how to handle students that struggle with mask wearing. Verbiage from staff will focus on "We are keeping germs away from others".
- TCAPS Board is required to revisit safe school plan every 20 days, but the upcoming 9/14/20 vote should apply the fall semester (unless there is an order from the governor or a major community outbreak, etc.). send separate emails to all tcaps board members, we can post contact details to board members

President's Report:

Laura Ashton:

- Eastern staff and PTO did not get to celebrate exiting 5th graders over the summer with an in-person gathering as hoped. PTO sent a target Gift Card to each exiting 5th grader as a goodbye gift, but staff is still hoping to celebrate in person sometime in the future when it is safe. Gift Certificate money came from carnival income that the 5th graders raised.

PTO provided breakfast yesterday morning and welcome back goodie bags for staff. We are trying to support our staff as best as possible.

What will PTO role be this year? PTO would like to involve all families including those with students enrolled in 100% virtual options. We will do monthly events online, but they may not be our normal events. Only Staff and students will be allowed in the school building after face-to-face learning starts, so we will not be able to do most of the celebrations and events we typically do. PTO will decide our plan going forward after the 9/14/20 TCAPS school board meeting.

Fundraising: we still need to raise funds to support staff start up and meals. There will be no jog-a-thon this fall. We may do a virtual "thon" or wait until spring. Getmoving.org will pivot and track donations for any type of "thon" we would want to have. We may host an online auction in October/November to distribute last springs auction items. John Bails: mentioned online fundraising options with entertainment (magician). Deb Feaster suggested a live zoom auction.

Treasurer's Report

Checking/Savings: \$34074.58

Total Cash on Hand:

Anticipated Spending: staff start up is a large expense this month

Fundraising:

Committee Reports:

Room Parent Coordinator: PTO is still looking for class room parents to help celebrate teacher birthdays and liaison between PTO and teachers. We also need a Room Parent Coordinator.

New Business:

ECSC welcome to Eastern. PTO would love to hear how we can further support the new programs in our school

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30pm (hopefully in person, otherwise via Zoom)

Adjournment: 7:33pm