



Home and School Meeting Minutes

September 22nd, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Officers: Kim Jaquez, Tiffany Mercer, Andy Phillips and Christine Taber

Staff: Katy Williams, Jaime Veal

Parents: Rachael Morris, Meagan Sliga, Mindy Landisch, Sara Johns, Theresa Sebestyen, Kate Bosch, Kaushik Shahir, Debby Berenz, Lauren Hinrichs, Kristen Perhach, Elaine Gearheart, Marlo McCormick

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS
Call to order & Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm. Meeting was held virtually on Zoom due to COVID-19. Officers, staff and parents were introduced.
Principal/ Vice Principal's Update	<p>Katy Williams and Jaime Veal gave an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katy Williams expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with parents via Zoom, as in-person interactions at school are limited. She shared a slideshow of some of Elmwood Chalk Love that welcomed staff and students back to the full 5-day school week. • Katy showed photos of the completed Makerspace Expansion in the library. The new furniture can fit an entire classroom with flexible seating to promote work groups and collaboration. This project was made possible by the Fun Run and other Home & School fundraising. • Katy extended a special thank you to Tiffany Mercer for purchasing, installing, and planting the boxes from the Sixth Grade Legacy Gift. She shared a photo of the four planter boxes now installed in front of the school entrance. • Jaime Veal discussed temporary suspension of the Junior Coaches program part of Playworks, as grades are being kept separate for COVID precautions. She gave a shout-out to Elaine Gearheart and the rest of the recess team who were trained in Playworks curriculum, including safe games that incorporate Social Emotional Learning. Look for more information on the Playworks partnership in the next school district newsletter, The Edge.
Review/Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa Sebestyan motioned to approve the May, 2020 Home and School Meeting Minutes, seconded by Lauren Hinrichs. Approved by all.
Treasurer's Notes	<p>Checking account balance is at \$54,197.26 (\$10,639.42 belongs to the chess club)</p> <p>Available cash is \$40,601.36</p> <p>Andy presented current budget update for 2020-2021 school year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Artist in Residence carryover is \$1,000 from 2019 – 20 • Fundraising Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cub Run, formerly the Fun Run, is unlikely to take place this year. • Non-Income Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Katy and Jaime requested to reallocate the \$3,000 earmarked for Junior Coaches Playworks to just Playworks general funding, allowing funds to be spent on indoor playground equipment and training classroom teachers on the

	<p>Playworks curriculum. The priority is programming that benefits all students, including virtual learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elmwood teachers will be given a classroom stipend of \$50 (50) = \$2,500 ○ Tiffany Mercer and Kim Jaquez requested to amend budget to return line item of Sports Equipment of \$1,000, which was removed from last year's budget in error. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Net Zero Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kindergarten T-shirts were purchased. ○ Seat Sack income is being collected. <p>Sara Johns motioned to approve amended budget. Kaushik Shahir seconded, and it was approved by all.</p>
Past Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6th Grade Completion Ceremony: 6th grade families were given a yard sign in advance. The ceremony was held as a drive-through event where students received gift bags and said goodbye to teachers. ● Staff Appreciation: Kim Jaquez, one of the co-chairs, shared that teachers were provided a boxed lunch from Bunzel's on one of their training days before school started. She and Sara Johns delayed Chalk Love to the start of the full 5-day school week due to weather. Signs were purchased and put out to celebrate the first 2 weeks of hybrid learning. ● Shorewest Fundraiser: Home & School was contacted by Shorewest Realtors who raised a total of \$680 across the school district. Elmwood was given \$170 for classroom supplies, which would have equated to roughly \$5/classroom. Co-Presidents will put the money towards purchasing some of the items typically requested by teachers for staff appreciation when the check arrives. The supplies would be placed in a basket in the teacher's lounge for them to "shop" what they need.
Upcoming/Canceled/Revamped Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matty's cards: We are again able to sell Matty's cards for \$20 this year. The cards have already been printed. The savings offers are the same as last year. Matty's donates the cards free of charge, so the full purchase price goes to Home & School minus printing costs. Matty's cards will be available through online sales on Weebly this year, instead of being sent home with all students. Look for information on purchasing Matty's Cards in Paw Prints and the Home & School Facebook page. ● Spirit Wear: Meagan Sliga discussed that Spirit Wear orders will be pushed to end of September and be open for about a week and half. In past years, the bulk order was picked up from Burghardt Sporting Goods and brought to school, which is not an option this year. Online purchasing will be available instead, with shipping to student's homes for \$10. Another option is to have bulk orders available for pick-up at 2 Elmwood family houses. Details and the link to order will be in Paw Prints and on the Home & School website. ● Eat & Earn: Kim Jaquez shared on behalf of the new committee chair, Lisa Forseth. She is focusing on Eat & Earn restaurants that offer pick-up or curbside options. The first event is at Mod Pizza on October 7th from 10:30 am – 9 pm. Flyer and more information will be in Paw Prints, H&S website and H&S Facebook page. 20% of proceeds will go back to Elmwood Home & School. ● Theresa Sebestyan shared there were over 140 School Tool Box orders for ship to home this year. It's been 4-5 years of positive experiences with this program. She signed up for next year to take advantage of the 10% early commitment discount. ● Christine Taber promoted the Box tops app as a contact-free way to fundraise for Elmwood by scanning your shopping receipts at home. Information about the Box Tops app recently went out in Paw prints and the Home & School Facebook page.
Open Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kate Bosch introduced the idea of starting a work group at Elmwood to promote books in the classroom that are written by authors of color and/or featuring characters of color. The Journal Sentinel featured a local mobile "niche" bookstore with an online store, which also has the benefit of supporting a local business. Theresa Sebestyan

	<p>suggested looking at Scholastic Book Fair funds to purchase books for the classroom. Ms. Thomas could potentially assist with determining appropriate grade-level books. Sara Johns suggested starting a committee for this project to determine costs and next steps. Kate Bosch volunteered to chair this committee. Kristen Perhach and Rachael Morris volunteered to assist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katy Williams discussed the Literacy Engagement Team at Elmwood, which is tasked to take on equity in the school's literacy options and could partner with Home & School. The school district has an overall equity goal, including diversity training for teachers and support for families on discussing inclusivity at home. Feedback from families is welcome to help bridge gap between school and home. • Creating Connections while Socially Distant: Ideas from the group were welcomed on how to build and maintain the Elmwood community without events in the building and many students learning virtually. Kim Jaquez shared experiences of some virtual learners in combined classrooms with students from other district schools. Katy and Jaime appreciated the feedback and are prioritizing keeping virtual students connected to Elmwood. Theresa Sebestyen asked about them seeing the Elmwood Today Show, rather than the home Today show of their virtual teacher. Jaime shared they are about 2 weeks away from this goal. Rachael Morris suggested virtual school events, such as a virtual movie night or virtual family bingo. Debby Berenz suggested moving events outdoors, such as holding Skate Night outside, rather than at IncrediRoll. Sara Johns noted other schools have done Virtual Dance Nights, Super Hero night (costumes and books) and a family scavenger hunt finding things around the house. Lauren Hinrichs suggested a Zoom talent show, particularly as opportunities to perform through band and choir may be limited this year. • Debby Berenz asked about opportunities to volunteer to support teachers without physically going into school. Suggestion was made to reach out to individual student's teachers or to specials teachers. Katy Williams is looking at gaps moving forward and how families could support teachers from home. She offered to follow-up with Debby regarding teacher's requests, such as things that need cutting out, laminating, etc. More individual projects and manipulatives are needed this year for COVID precautions.
Adjourned	Theresa Sebestyen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Meagan Sliga seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.