



Home and School Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Officers: Kim Jaquez, Tiffany Mercer and Christine Taber

Staff: Katy Williams, Jaime Veal, Laurie Karolek

Parents: Kate McFarlane, Sara Johns, Elaine Gearheart, Sayantani Ghosh Mitra, Kelly Phillips, Rachael Morris, Kerry Behrendt, Jill Winkler

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS
Call to order & Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 6:38 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 to Home & School for the K & 1st grade virtual Falltastic Family Fun Night, where she and Jamie read a story to students. She acknowledged Ms. Ibar for preparing a drawing lesson video, Ms. Leech for also reading a story and parent volunteers for organizing and hosting the event. She emphasized value of opportunities that include virtual learners along with in-person students. • Katy noted that Scholastic dollars add books to Elmwood's library and classrooms. Parents can also purchase additional books through Scholastic for the school. She thanked the librarian, Ms. Thomas, for organizing carts of books by grade level, so that students can safely select books. • Katy shared about the Quarter 1 incentive for students filling up their APawz chart. Students enjoyed a glow party, with every classroom embracing it differently. Some examples included dance parties, light bingo, glow noodle games, and flashlight reading. For virtual learners, Katy and Jamie sent a personalized letter to acknowledge the work being at home along with a Culver's Ice Cream token. • Teacher, Laurie Karolek, shared about upcoming week of coding and engineering activities. There will be both online and unplugged coding activities to share with the kids in classroom and with parents to be done at home. • Jaime Veal thanked Home & School for their support of the Playworks program. Coach PJ from Playworks classroom visited all classrooms, some specials and the recess team. He observed a Playworks game run by teachers, gave them feedback and then taught a new game with them observing. Games incorporate second step goals like cooperation, problem solving and teamwork. Staff also received tailored resources for activities for the classroom and the playground. • Jaime discussed that the Junior Coaches program is also starting up. Students can't go into other grade areas because of COVID, but they can run games within their own classroom cohort. They are also able to work with the recess team and other staff on developing games and creative ideas such as making videos to safely share their leadership skills.
Review/Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Johns motioned to approve the September 22, 2020 Home and School Meeting Minutes, seconded by Elaine Gearhart. Approved by all.

<p>Treasurer's Notes</p>	<p>Checking account balance is at \$52,836.77 (\$10,639.42 belongs to the chess club)</p> <p>Available cash is \$42,197.35</p> <p>Kim Jaquez presented current budget update for 2020-2021 school year on behalf of Andy Phillips:</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"> ○ Spirit Wear ○ Mod Pizza Eat and Earn ○ Matty's Cards in process ○ Cub Run, formerly the Fun Run, is unlikely to take place this year. • Non-Income Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expenses for Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree came out of Fall Fest budget ○ Elmwood teachers will be given a classroom stipend of \$50 (50) = \$2,500 ○ Zoom and Weebly account fees • Net Zero Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kindergarten T-shirts were purchased. ○ Seat Sack income is being collected.
<p>Past Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Jaquez shared about the Spirit Wear Fundraiser on behalf of committee chairs. Spirit Wear went well and fundraised more than expected. Chrissy hosted pick-up at her home. The committee is considering offering another order later in the year. • MOD Pizza and Texas Roadhouse Eat & Earn: Both restaurants offered dine-in and pick-up options. Rachael Morris shared estimate of \$150 earnings from Texas Roadhouse. MOD Pizza earnings are pending. • K&1st grade Falltastic Family Fun Night. This was the first attempt at a virtual H&S event. The event was organized with parent support and Katy and Jamie's guidance. About 20 families participated in the 45 minute event. In-person and virtual learners got to see each other, listen to stories from guest readers, follow along with an art lesson by Ms. Ibar, and participate in a costume showcase. • Jack O'Lantern Jamboree. Pumpkin carving contest was held for the whole school to participate in since FallFest couldn't take place. 29 families entered the contest and many more voted. Prizes were given to winners for each grade level and school-wide categories. Sara Johns offered feedback that if the event is held again next year, some families may appreciate a longer submission window to carve their pumpkins closer to Halloween.
<p>Upcoming/Canceled/Revamped Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home & School is seeking 2nd & 3rd grade parent volunteers to help plan next virtual event. The plan is for the next event to be held in December or January. • Matty's cards: Kate McFarlane shared about 34 Matt's cards have been purchased so far, with \$640 in sales (\$618 after printing). She discussed challenges with online sales. Tiffany Mercer shared steps needed to set up the Weebly site. It's open-ended on how long they should be available for sale, possibly throughout the year as sales have been lower than expected. Kate McFarlane shared there will also be a Black Friday sale on cards to incentivize purchases. Kelly Phillips and Elaine Gearheart suggested ways to promote Matty's cards. • Sara Johns gave an update on yearbook. She gave a shout-out to the in-person art teacher, Ms. Schretenthaler, who has been taking classroom and playground photos for the yearbook. Katy Williams shared that photography is in Ms. Schretenthaler's background. Parents or teachers can also share photos for the yearbook. The plan is to start populating the pages after Christmas. • Elaine Gearhart shared about the Elmwood Raffle. She and Theresa Sebestyen have been thinking about how to hold this event safely, if at all this year. They are considering an online auction, but there may be a license required by the Gaming

	<p>Commission. Sara Johns shared Elmwood Home & School holds the license that Cub Scouts uses for their carnival, but tax implications would need to be researched.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholastic Book Fair: Sales will all be online. Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide all students with a free book with online platform and other logistics. Teachers will have until December 4th to make selections. Their budget was raised from \$50 to \$125 this year to support more books in the classroom, library and for reading specialists. We should know 2 or 3 weeks after the fair how much was fundraised. • Kim Jaquez shared update from Kate Bosch on the diversity literacy project, which was brought up at the last H&S meeting. Kate is working with other parents and Kate Stinson, the literary coach. She received a list of diverse books offered through Scholastic. Kate Bosch and Kate Stinson are working together to determine what classroom needs are and with the book fair chairs. • Kim Jaquez and Kate McFarlane shared they are working to come up with new staff appreciation events, as traditional events like the cookie walk aren't possible this year.
Open Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Jaquez and Tiffany Mercer discussed the option of a Home & School family directory. There was an Elmwood family directory in the past, but this was stopped a couple years due to misuse. Katy clarified the inability to share parent information is a state statute and district decision, not an Elmwood policy. Could Home & School offer an online or family directory to meet that need, particularly with more distance between families due to COVID? The directory would be opt-in, so families who don't sign up will not have their information shared. Sara Johns shared that H&S used to sell a printed copy of the school directory that was very popular, so she anticipates there would be interest in an online directory. Jill Winkler and Elaine Gearhart shared that parents have tried to make directories on the classroom Facebook pages with varying results. Not all parents are on Facebook, so an online platform may have larger reach. Katy expressed willingness to send a targeted e-mail or communication to parents about the new directory, as Paw Prints is sometimes overlooked. The best platform option seems to be PT Board. The cost after the first free year is \$100 annually, with potential to get additional free years by referring other schools. Kim shared screenshots of a sample site. In addition to the directory, there are volunteer sign-ups, which could potentially take the place of sign-up genius and classroom sign-ups. Information would be secure, with log-in required and a school code to register. There is also an option to download the directory to pdf for printing and mobile app. Sara Johns asked if information would need to be entered annually. Kim states information is archived and could be edited. The site also has capability for online sales, auctions, potentially for future Cub Runs, raffle, etc.
Adjourned	Tiffany Mercer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Christine Taber seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.