



Home and School Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

November 16, 2017

ATTENDEES:

Officers: Chrissy Kennedy-Kortes, Kate McFarlane, Theresa Sebestyen, and Jill Winkler
Committee Liaison: Sara Johns

Staff: Katy Williams, Jess Albert, Megan Hyland

Parents – Kara Erchull, Kim Jaquez, Danielle Sciano, Ann Szefflinski, Tiffany Mercer, Kathy Barnhart, Colleen Tadych, Erin Ward, Kelly Phillips, Jessica Opat, Ashley McKanry, Rachel Schaar, Cat Willcock, Karen Kline, Tracy G.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS
Call to order & Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. in the Elmwood Elementary Library
Review/Approve Minutes	Motioned by Ashley McKanry to approve September 12, 2017 Home and School Meeting Minutes, seconded by Danielle Sciano. The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.
Principal's and/or Vice Principal's Welcome	<p>Katy Williams gave the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Academic</i> – Katy and Jaime went to Washington D.C. as liaisons of Elmwood to receive the 2017 National Blue-Ribbon award. Elmwood was one of only nine Wisconsin schools (including public and private schools as well as all grade levels) to receive this award. Staff was recognized on Monday, November 13 by the Board of Education. Also, Home & School is sponsoring a social to honor the staff on November 17. Finally, an all school assembly will be held on November 21 for all students. • <i>Behavior</i> – Michael from Playworks recently had his follow-up and observation of recess sessions. He will prepare a report on what we are doing well and where we can improve. Feedback thus far included a positive finding in which it was noted that students are initiating activities in an inclusive way. He also noted enthusiasm by the staff. After Thanksgiving break there will be the introduction of “game of the week”. • <i>College Readiness</i> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ November 9th was College Day. Students and staff were encouraged to wear spiritwear associated with different colleges and universities. The goal was to initiate and continue conversations about different colleges. ○ Drew Burgoyne and Chris Nelson from the Channel 58 Weather Team will be coming to Elmwood on Monday November 3. They will be discussing weather and what education is required to be a meteorologist.
Treasurer's Notes	<p>Kate distributed the current budget and noted the following items since the last H&S meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have received a second Amazon Smile payment. • Matty's card sales are at \$4,690 which is \$2,690 over expectations. • FallFest was slightly over budget as expected. • We have received several requests from the staff for the classroom stipends. Examples of items being purchased include rosin for the orchestra room, books, and morning tub materials • For the Hospitality Staff Appreciation line item, we have spent approx. \$1,100 on the staff appreciation event to be held tomorrow evening. This event is in lieu of the Spring Social.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate noted that held funds are now included on the budget. • Checking account balance \$73,049.82 (\$60,591.99 available funds). • Red Robin previously had a dining program. This program has been discontinued, but we received a final check of approx. \$10.00.
<p>Presentation/Voting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Student Council</i> – Jess Albert and Megan Hyland presented to the group on the new Student Council. They discussed the group’s mission of building leadership skill for 4-6 grades. Students in these grades completed applications and 26 students were selected to participate. Events planned for this year include New Berlin Food Pantry Food Drive in November and Christmas Council of Waukesha County Holiday Drive (toys, books, hats, mittens) in December. Their goal is to have a school or community event each month of the year in addition to a planned spirit day each month. Finally, they are working on expectation videos (lunchroom, hallway, playground expectations). H&S will need to vote on additional funds of \$600 for this co-curricular as this was not included in the budget for this year to pay for the two advisors as this co-curricular was not included in current the budget. • <i>Video Conference/Virtual Reality</i> – Historically Elmwood has had 2 video conferences per year per classroom. H&S had budgeted for and contributed \$3,100 and was matched by the building budget. This technology has become outdated. Late last year, Elmwood borrowed 10 virtual reality goggles from District and tested them across all grade levels. Feedback was positive across grade levels. We would like to roll funds from the video conference line item to purchase goggles “kit” (20 goggles and a teacher base tablet). These would be used for educational purposes as they can take the students to different locations for social studies, reading, and science. The teacher tablet base allows for the teacher to control what the students are looking at and ensure they are being used for educational purposes. Google Experiences is the largest vendor for what the students will view and are free. In order to purchase 1 kit, we need to use the video conference budgeted funds plus \$500 (total \$6,700). The group discussed the option of purchasing a total of 30 instead of 20 so all students are able to use at the same time should we be required to return the 10 from district. This would require a vote to spend an additional \$2900 over the \$500. A video of Elmwood students using the goggles can be found on the New Berlin School District website and it was requested that we have a presentation of the goggles at the next meeting. It was also noted that we should look into storage options for the devices. • <i>Artist in Residence 2018</i> – Sara Johns reported that would like to invite Laurel Schneider, a writer/professor, to come to Elmwood. Ms. Schneider is an author that ranges from K -6th grade writings. It is unusual find an author that spans all grade levels. Additionally, she is a professor so she knows how to teach as well. This would be a two-day presentation. The first day would be grade level assemblies and day two would be smaller more focused workshops for the 5th and 6th grade. We need an additional \$500 over budget to pay for her fees and an additional \$1,000 to cover travel and hotel. It was suggested that we try to get someone to donate airline points. <p>After extensive and lengthy discussion by the members, Co-President Theresa Sebestyen called for a vote with the results as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding student council \$600 passed unanimously. 2. Roll existing budgeted funds of \$3100 from video conference line item AND add up to \$3400 to purchase 1 virtual kit (20 goggles) plus and additional kit of 10 goggles if needed passed by majority. Cat Willcock, Karen Kline and Kathy Barnhardt abstained. 3. Additional funding up to \$1,500 for Artist In Residence passed by majority. Sara Johns abstained.

<p>Past Event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spiritwear</i> – The sale is complete and we had 170 items ordered. This is a service to our Elmwood families and not a fundraiser for profit. We netted \$3.60 for the sale. • <i>Book Fair</i> – Successful. No final numbers at this time. • <i>Skate Night</i> – Event went well. Slightly less attendance than last time however still a good turnout. This was a Monday night versus a Thursday. • <i>Fall Fest</i> – Event went well and was well attended. Kelly reported feedback on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Received feedback that some costumes were too scary or inappropriate. We discussed the need to publicize costume guidelines next year. ○ It was suggested to have a volunteer table so volunteers know where to be and what they are required to do ○ No paint in the art room next year as it was too messy. ○ We would like to have more volunteers at the entrances. ○ Positive feedback on henna and caricatures, however it was noted that there was long wait time for the caricature artist. Next year we would like to have more vendors. ○ More food/concessions next year. ○ We need to advertise that all children can participate in the spider hunt. ○ Discussed more security/parent supervision as children were going into areas of the school and property which were not part of the event. We discussed the possibility of Katy doing a “robo” call reminding parents that they need to attend and supervise their children during the event. • <i>Staff Conference Dinner/Staff Favorites Book</i> - Colleen Tadych noted that the Staff Conference dinner went well and was low cost. The wraps were provided at discounted rate from Johnny V and everything else was donated. She also noted that the Staff Favorites Book was updated recently. We discussed the possibility of posting the favorites online with teacher permission. Colleen also reminded everyone that the committee will need a new co-chair next year as she will no longer be at Elmwood next year. • <i>Fun Run</i> – Kara reported that the event was amazingly successful again this year. A total of 496 students registered on the website, however all students are included in the event. As of the time of this meeting, we have raised \$20,450 and with our sponsorships we have reached our goal of \$22,000. We still have one more collection date before official final numbers are available. • <i>Movie Night</i> – Karen Kline reported that it was a success. There were some issues in which parents dropped off kids and didn’t stay to supervise their children. Additionally, some kids were not being respectful and needed to be reminded during the movie. We made approximately \$80 on concessions. Katy noted that she will bring this to the behavior leadership team to discuss behavior at after school events. We also need to bring the adult community into the mix with policing for behavior during events. In the spring, Kathy may show a movie geared toward older children, but still appropriate for younger family members. It was suggested that we look into bringing the projector closer because it is so far away and the screen is small. No date for the next movie night at this time.
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Staff Blue Ribbon Social</i> will be held tomorrow night, November 17th. Historically the Staff Social is held in the spring, but this year it was planned to be in conjunction with the Blue-Ribbon award. The event will be held at the Preserve at Deer Creek. Colleen showed an example of the mailbox treat for staff that will be delivered for November. • <i>Cookie Exchange</i> – This will be the 3rd annual cookie exchange in which each staff member gets to select 2 dozen cookies to take home for the Holidays. The exchange will take place on Tuesday, December 19th. Colleen noted that she will need approx. 130 dozen cookies to be donated for this event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kwik Trip Carwash Card Sale</i> – Erin reported dates will be last week of January 29th – February 2nd. • <i>Eat & Earns</i>- No updates at this time. • <i>Stage Curtain</i> – Submitted quote to district and requested it be installed during winter break. • <i>Student In-Services</i> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Association for the Rights of Citizens with handicaps (“ARCh”) have a youth team with teenage volunteers that do an array of programs. We are looking into “Differences Gotta have Them”. They typically meet with lower grades in the classroom and older would be a larger assembly. The 6th grade may a smaller presentation in the classrooms to focus on middle school topics as appropriate. ○ In spring, we are looking into Milwaukee Thunder, a wheelchair basketball team, to come in to do assemblies for the students. This could include teachers versus Milwaukee Thunder basketball game and/or a student versus Milwaukee Thunder (older grades) game. Along this topic, it was suggested that we look to having a wheelchair in the school to allow kids to experience how it feels and the difficulties involved with being in a wheelchair.
Open Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Sciano mentioned that there will be a spring dance planning meeting after the holidays. Watch Paw Prints for more information. • Ann Szeflinski noted that the Winter Family Carnival (f.k.a Cub Scout Carnival will be held on January 12th
Next Meeting	Home and School – January 23, 2018
Adjourned	Tracy G made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ashley McKarny seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.