



Home and School Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Officers: Kim Jaquez, Theresa Sebestyen, Kate McFarlane and Christine Taber

Staff: Jaime Veal, Ryan Samz

Parents: Jessica Cross, Debby Berenz, Mindy Landisch, Ashley McKanry, Danielle Sciano, Katie Ames

AGENDA ITEM

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS

Call to order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm. Officers, staff and parents were introduced.

Principal/ Associate Principal's Update

Jaime Veal and Ryan Samz gave an update on the following:

- Jaime Veal and Ryan Samz shared a slideshow including presentation for the upcoming School Board meeting.
- Ryan shared about standardized testing and learning goals. 89% of Elmwood students score “no risk” or “low risk” in literacy achievement. Math scores are even higher at 90% of students scoring at no/low risk. The school’s goal is a rate of improvement compared to national peers of 50% or higher. This is ambitious, given how high achieving Elmwood students and efforts are underway.
- Principals shared about Elmwood staff Core Beliefs and examples of how they are put in practice: 1) All Kids Can Learn (K/6 grade reading partners, book fair), 2) Learning is the Work (innovative practices, Makers Space), 3) Every Child is My Child (Junior Coaches, Celebrating Diversity), 4) Relationships Before Results (APawzz, Kindness Week, Citizen of the Month) and 5) We Are a Team (Toy/Shoe Drives, All School Read).
- This year is Elmwood’s 20th Anniversary. To celebrate, the tradition of the school song was brought back, with the addition of some new verses. All grades are learning at least part of the song.
- Kate Stinston, Literacy Co-Chair, presented on proposed All School Read and Author Study for the 2022-2023 school year. A survey was sent to families after the first All School Read this year, which returned a lot of positive feedback and suggestions. They hope to connect the All School Read with an author through the Home & School Artist in Residence program next year. Sarah Weeks is the desired author. Her visit would include multiple sessions with students, book signings, and tailored activities. Her books are aimed at different ages and selections would be *Oggie Sooder* for K – 2 and *Save Me a Seat* for 3 – 6.
 - Estimated investment of \$9,087: \$5,500 for two day in-person visit (\$2,750/day) and \$2,547 for both titles (\$3.98/book) through Scholastic Face with discount. Could reduce estimated book costs down to \$1,611 if only 1 book per household, rather than 1 book for every child.
 - \$5,000 from this year’s Artist in Residence funds can be put towards the deposit to book the author, travel arrangements, etc. Voting can be held first H&S meeting in September to fund the books purchase. Artist in Residence program is typically every other year. \$5,000 in the budget for this year is available for spending until June 30th.

Review/Approve Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Danielle Sciano motioned to approve the Home and School Meeting Minutes from March 15,2022, seconded by Ashley McKanry and approved by all.
Treasurer's Notes	<p>Checking account balance is at \$49,570.25 (\$10,639.42 belongs to the chess club). Available cash is \$37,110.81 Kate McFarlane presented current budget update.</p> <p>Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$33 check received for Boxtops. \$1,000 donation from Mathnasium. Fundraising Section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kwik Trip card orders raised about \$3,200, our highest gross yet. Expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise Craze spending for Robots and T-shirts purchases came in right under budget of approved \$8,000. Spring Dance was \$583 over budget but was a well-attended and enjoyed event. Apawz event: Kona Ice is booked for June 1st. Staff Appreciation budget was supplemented by Mathnasium donation. \$3,000 payment for Playworks. Seat Sacks purchased for next year. Net Zero Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Fair discrepancy now resolved within \$188. <p>Kate McFarlane presented proposed budget for School year 2022-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given planned spending out of Artist in Residence funds out of this year, reduced next year's Artist in Residence budget to \$3,500 for total of \$8,500. More research is needed on Co-Curriculars funding. So far, budget was upped \$400 to \$7,000 total for next year. Home & School Office budget was increased to account for tax preparation. Tax penalty line item removed as tax preparation will avoid future IRS fees. Playworks budget increased to \$4,000. Jaime and Ryan clarified that Sports Equipment in the budget is spent on recess equipment. Reduced to \$500 for next year due to limited use this year. Request to repeat forward testing incentives was held until next year. Current proposed budget is \$4,000 spending over expected income, not including a big-ticket fundraising target item. Discussion of possible big-tickets items included upgrading the PA system (what is needed for just the musical, vs. just for Fine Arts nights. Could musical performance be held at IKE?) \$1,000 for Assemblies was renamed Stage Maintenance to allow more flexibility. <p>Ashley McKanry motioned to approve budget, seconded by Danielle Sciano and approved by all.</p>
Past Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mindy Landisch shared about Eat & Earns. Marcos Pizza earnings of \$160 weren't as high as expected for a 3-day event. Some feedback was it was hard to find how to give Elmwood credit online. More direction in marketing would be helpful if we try again next year. Café Zupas performed better at \$292. Spring Dance: Danielle Sciano shared about Spring Dance on April 8th. The 80's theme was embraced by students and parents. Highest participation in recent years. Concessions had pizza, nachos, and candy. Initial scheduling underway for next year. Kim Jaquez suggested scheduling the dance with the Book Fair which was promoted sales in the past. Ashley McKanry also noted moving the event earlier in the year would allow inclusion of photos in the Yearbook.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Appreciation: Staff Appreciation Week was very appreciated by staff. Spending was supplemented by Mathnasium donation. The theme was Camp Elmwood and staff enjoyed daily treats including breakfast from a coffee truck, a new Keurig/coffee cart for the lounge and a can koozie and raffle gift card for each staff. • Seussical the Musical was great, despite some equipment challenges. Efforts to fundraise at the musical may have been overlooked by some parents.
Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearbook: Ashley McKanry thanked art teacher, Leah Schretenthaler, for designing the yearbook cover. Yearbook is done and submitted and was proofread by Nicole Cooke. A photographer is coming to HID to take pictures for next year's Yearbook. For an extra \$2, we can get 4 more pages, which seems worthwhile. Art pages can be added to display kids' work throughout the year. • School Tool Box: Nicole Cooke said the supply list will be finalized by early next week. Ordering should be available before the end of the school year. The link will be included in Paw Prints. Direct ship to home will hopefully remain an option. • 6th Grade Completion is on Thursday 6/9/21. 6th Graders got their T-shirts today. There will be a DJ, Photo Booth and light refreshments. Students can make their own "All About Me" poster, which can be displayed along with art put up by Leah Schretenthaler. • High Interest Day: Theresa Sebestyen is still recruiting parent volunteers for day of. Eisenhower students can be pulled to fill gaps. Nicole Klaas and Debby Berenz are assisting this year and will be taking over as co-chairs next year.
Other Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Orientation date for next year is scheduled for August 25th. Home & School typically hosts an incoming kindergartener Play Date. Years past there had also been a second play date. • Kate McFarlane is seeking a co-chair for Raise Craze for next year.
Open Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle Sciano and Christine Taber were nominated for Co-President and Debby Berenz was nominated for Secretary by Ashley McKanry. Nominations were approved by all. • Nicole Cooke put in a plug to schedule school events for 2022-23 School Year as early as possible. The calendar is available now. • Floor discussion of new Paw Print format. Request to move Home & School information further up the listed information, above Community Events. Teacher's newsletters are also being encouraged to include key information.
Adjourned	Ashley McKanry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Danielle Sciano seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.