



# Home and School Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

January 19, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Elmwood Elementary School

## ATTENDEES:

**Officers:** Molly Carroll, Kara Erchull, Ann Szefflinski and Rachel Schaar

**Staff:** Principal Royce Lindner, Associate Principal Jaime Veal, Colleen Korom, Monica Lapin, Katie Troyer

**Parents:** Martha Bokerman, Janet Rakowski, Kim Jaquez, Alison Giese, Theresa Sebestyen, Tracy G., Colleen Tadych, Kathy Barnhart, Kari Larson, Jenny Stoltz, Cathy Boerner

| AGENDA ITEM                     | DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS  |
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| <b>Call to order</b>            | Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.   |
| <b>Review/Approve Minutes</b>   | Motion by Colleen Tadych to approve Nov. 17, 2015 Home and School Meeting Minutes; seconded by Tracy G.; minutes approved.   |
| <b>Notes from Co-Presidents</b> | Molly Carroll and Kara Erchull said there are a lot of fun events coming up this spring for Home and School  |
| <b>Treasurer's Report</b>       | <p>Ann Szefflinski shared notable treasurer updates since the last meeting.</p> <p>Some highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A little more money has come in from Amazon Smiles – remember to go to the Amazon Smile website when you shop there!</li> <li>• We just received a \$1000 check from BoxTops</li> <li>• We received \$73 from the last All-School Skate</li> <li>• We received \$5,100 from the Matty's Card fundraiser</li> <li>• More sales came in from spirit wear</li> </ul> <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We agreed to give \$600 for A Pawzz (came from Extended Learning Opportunity)</li> <li>• We paid for performance rights for the upcoming musical</li> </ul> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann gave an update on Cart Mart – we will be liquidating all items (except for calculators). Ann encouraged committee chairs to use these extra items (pencils, erasers, etc.) for class prizes (such as Box Tops, Book Fair) or events (such as Fall Fest). She also said teachers or staff could request to use these for special activities or celebrations (such as writing celebrations).</li> <li>• Ann gave an update to the Chess Coach on the chess funds to let him know about the current chess account (that Home and School holds).</li> <li>• Ann asked that everyone use the tax exempt form when they make purchases for Home and School.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Notes from the Principal</b> | <p>Royce mentioned that video conferencing has some changes. In the past, the district told schools in the spring how much wasn't covered and Home and School was able to cover the extra expenses. Now the district puts money into the budget and each school has to pay out as they come in. With the rising costs of video conference, Royce says they have realized it won't be enough to cover all video conferences. He said now that teachers know this, they have been very purposeful about choosing what video conference they will use. Right now, Royce said they are about \$400-500 over budget and a few more grade levels need to schedule their video conferences. Soon, they can let Home and School know how much will be requested to cover expenses.</p>   |

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|   | <p>Jump into Your Future Day: April 18, 2016 – Poplar Creek hosted this day at their school last year and it was a success, so this year all four elementary schools will be holding a similar day. As a district, this days fits into our college and career readiness goals. Royce said a letter will be coming home to families to ask for any volunteers that would like to share about their careers with the students. Sessions will be about 45 minutes each. There will be listening and hands-on sessions about different types of jobs and careers that are available to students. Royce said if you have any ideas of people that would be good speakers for the students, please let him know.</p>   |
| <p><b>Design Day Project – Jr. Women’s Club of New Berlin</b></p> | <p>Janet Rakowski and Martha Bokerman (both parents at Elmwood) represented the New Berlin Jr. Women’s League to talk about the Design Day Project. For many years, the group was fundraising for a splash pad. This plan didn’t work out, so instead the money already raised will be used towards a new all-inclusive playground at Malone Park (where the former playground equipment was deemed too old by the insurance company so it has been torn down).</p> <p>For the design day on Jan. 27, a designer is coming from New York for two days and will gather kids’ recommendations and dreams for the playground and will put together architect plans for the playground. This will include input from all four public schools and two parochial schools in New Berlin. The New Berlin curriculum director will put together some guidelines for teachers to help them work with students to get ideas. So it will be a quick timeline – kids will draw their pictures in the morning and that evening there will be a design reveal.</p> <p>The week of May 16<sup>th</sup>, rain or shine will be when the playground is built. They need three shifts per day, 60-80 volunteers per shift. Janet asked if anyone has contacts at work, church, etc. that would want to be involved with volunteering, let her know. The park will be built in a week! The whole community has a say – so it will be the kids’ park. More information is available at <a href="http://www.playgroundatmalone.org">www. playgroundatmalone.org</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>Review of Past Events</b></p>                               | <p>A. <b>Matty’s Cards</b><br/>We made \$5,820 from students selling 291 cards, plus cards sold to teachers for a total of \$5,920. Matty’s will be tracking what discounts are used on the card and will revise the card for the future. The \$20 that you pay for the card goes entirely back to Elmwood Home and School. Thank you to Matt and Jennie Anderson for this wonderful program!</p> <p>B. <b>Shop Until You Drop</b><br/>Kathy Quandt said our profit was \$1,100.50. There wasn’t a lot of foot traffic and a lot of other events going on that day. We split the custodial fees with Park and Rec because of the basketball program going on the same day.</p> <p>C. <b>Staff Cookie Walk</b><br/>The Staff Appreciation Committee once again hosted a cookie walk. We had 33 families donate cookies – giving everyone about 18 cookies to choose from. Thank you to everyone that donated cookies and treats! There were a few extra treats that went to the fire department. Kim Jaquez offered to type up the recipes and gave those booklets to teachers.</p>   |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p>                                     | <p>A. <b>Hot Chocolate Cart</b><br/>The Staff Appreciation Committee will host a hot chocolate cart again for staff. Colleen Tadych will let us know when the date is finalized.</p> <p>B. <b>Kwik Trip Car Wash – Now through Jan. 29</b><br/>Kathy Quandt said students received the order form in folders last week.</p> <p>C. <b>Cub Pack 38 Winter Carnival – Friday, Jan. 29</b><br/>The Home and School sponsors Elmwood’s Cub Scout pack. Ann Szefflinski said the carnival is a lot of fun for kids – it is for the whole Elmwood community. This is a</p>  |

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|                             | <p>collaborative event with the cub scouts, girl scouts and boy scouts. There is also a book drive going on that will go to Next Door Foundation – if kids bring a book to donate to the carnival, they get a ticket. There will be food, new games and a balloon artist this year.</p> <p><b>D. Teacher/Staff Raffle – Feb. 22-26</b><br/>Kathy Quandt will begin soliciting teachers and staff about what experiences they may want to offer for the raffle.</p> <p><b>E. All School Skate – Thursday, Feb. 25</b><br/>This is our last skate night for the year, so come out and skate!! This event is open to Elmwood families only.</p> <p><b>F. Movie Night – Friday, March 4</b><br/>The movie will be announced closer to the date. Popcorn is free. There will also be water and chocolate bars for sale.</p> <p><b>G. Eat and Earn Update</b><br/>Colleen Tadych said she has scheduled the next Eat and Earn at Quaker Steak and Lube on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016. She will schedule a night at Culvers and may also schedule another date at Chipotle.</p>   |
| <p><b>Staff Reports</b></p> | <p><b>A. Mrs. Troyer –Bells</b><br/>Mrs. Troyer, Elmwood’s music teacher, spoke about the need to have the school’s bells (often called xylophones) repaired. She brought bells to show at the meeting. Mrs. Troyer has gotten a quote from Melk Music to repair them at a cost of \$30-35 each, about \$595 total; around \$770 if all 22 need to be repaired. These bells are high quality and would cost \$400-800 each to buy brand new. She said older students can use these to learn how to read music. Younger students can learn to play simple folk songs.</p> <p>Meeting attendees asked about what other instruments are available for students to learn music on here at Elmwood. Royce mentioned that there is a MIE lab and recorders. Royce mentioned that the bells are a resource that can be used in the classroom.</p> <p>Cathy Boerner made a motion to approve \$770 to fix the bells for the music department. Kathy Quandt seconded the motion. All attendees voted and the motion was approved.</p> <p><b>B. Staff Reports from the Connection Committee</b><br/> <b>Kindergarten</b> – We are learning to add and subtract up to five. We are writing four-page stories (8-12 sentences) and we are hearing sounds. They are very excited when the teacher can read their writing! We are working hard on writing, so we can read it.<br/> <b>First Grade</b> – First grade is finishing up the nonfiction reading unity. The first graders loved getting SUPER SMART about a variety of nonfiction topics and teaching others about the topics too! We will be starting our unit on characters next. We have also been learning about winter and are excited that we can finally get outside to play in the snow!<br/> <b>Second Grade</b> – In science, second graders are learning about health and nutrition and ways to keep their body healthy. They are using I-Pads to organize, share and give feedback on their learning to support their nonfiction literacy unit. In writer’s workshop, students are sharing this nonfiction learning by writing nonfiction expert books.<br/> <b>Third Grade</b> – Third grade just enjoyed an interactive presentation on Simple Machines. Students experienced the science concepts they learned in class. Some teetered on a large seesaw, sat inside a moving car on an inclined plane or lifted heavy pails with a pulley. Third graders are wrapping up their study of multiplication and division and will move onto fractions next. Writers will be celebrating their realistic fiction pieces and moving onto nonfiction writing next. Readers have been studying</p> |

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|                                       | <p>characters and are moving onto researching animals next week. In social studies, students will be studying what makes communities better.</p> <p><b>Fourth Grade</b> – In reading, we are working on reading poetry, based on the setting, mood/feeling and the tone. We are also working on developing a theme about the poem you are reading. At the end of the mini lessons we have a task to complete with your partner and then independent read and try to carry what you learned in the mini lesson into your own independent reading book. In writing, we are working on literary essays which are where you take a character from a story and develop a theory about that character. In math, we are working on division using compatible numbers and rounding and using our wrap song.</p> <p><b>Sixth Grade</b> – Sixth grade is currently reading non-fiction texts and writing informational books on a topic that they consider themselves experts on! Sixth grade classes are all reading the book “Holes” aloud and the students are excited to compare the book to its live version at “First Stage” during our field trip in February. In math, students are wrapping up unit 5 finding ratios and proportional. Students are able to complete ratio tables and determine unit rates. They are also currently learning how to compare ratios to find the better deal. In science, students are completing a project on the earth, sun and moon relationship and how that relationship impacts the seasons. They are going to complete a model, poster or online presentation to share what they have learned about planetary sciences this quarter.</p> <p><b>Band</b> – The sixth grade band had a very successful first concert back in December. Now that we’re back in January, we’ve been working on learning our first full octave scale, and are continuing learning more notes and rhythms as we progress in our band books. The students are already starting to learn one of the favorite band tunes – “Let’s Go Band!” and we’ll be getting more music as the months go on.</p> <p><b>Orchestra</b> – Orchestra has been working hard to prepare for String Fest, our annual district-wide festival for New Berlin orchestra students. Orchestra members from Elmwood will rehearse with elementary, middle and high school orchestra members during the day on Jan. 21. Then we will share our learning at a big concert that evening at New Berlin West. Elementary orchestra members will be performing “Ukrainian Bell Carol” and “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” as a combined 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra. We are excited!</p> |
| <p><b>Other Committee Reports</b></p> | <p><b>A. High Interest Day</b><br/>Theresa Sebestyen, Co-Chair of High Interest Day, mentioned that at the last meeting it was decided that money left over from last year’s event would go back to the committee. This year the committee will be piloting online sign-ups.</p> <p>Molly mentioned that this is Home and School’s “signature” event that most parents and families know about so we want to make sure it is fully funded. So we’ll just plan to be over budget this year once we figure out how much money is needed, and then we can allocate a better amount of money for next year. We’ll have two sessions that will still cost money (canvas painting and tie-dye t-shirts). We’ll also continue to ask families and businesses for donations to cover costs.</p> <p><b>B. Teacher/Staff Social – April 15</b><br/>Kathy Barnhart gave a report. This is a professional development day, so the gathering would start after the work day and will be held at Matty’s.</p>  |
| <p><b>Adjourn</b></p>                 | <p>Theresa Sebestyen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tracy G. seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.</p>  |
| <p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>            | <p>Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.</p>  |