



Home and School Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

May 24, 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, Erica Oswald, Laura Bergunde

Parents: Kim Jaquez, Alison Giese, Theresa Sebestyen, Tracy G., Chrissy Kennedy-Kortes, Sara Johns, Pam Breitigam, Colleen Tadych, Cathy Boerner, Debbie Gillard, Kathy Quandt, Elsie Gonzales, Marlo McCormick, Ann Stadler

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS
Call to order	Meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.
Review/Approve Minutes	Motion by Colleen Tadych to approve March 15, 2016 Home and School Meeting Minutes; seconded by Tracy G.; minutes approved.
Staff Reports	Mrs. Oswald shared that the teachers gave reports (see staff reports at end of minutes)
Notes from Co-Presidents	<p>A. Boosterthon Fundraiser – Oct. 24 – Nov. 2 Molly Carroll shared about this new fundraiser, a fun run/walk. It will be held during the last week of October. It is a 10-day long program, beginning with a pep rally. Students get pledges – the company has said that often 60% of pledges aren't from parents! The last day of the program will be the fun run/walk. If weather permits, it will be outside. If not, it will be in the gym. Every child will be able to participate in some way. Molly will be chairing the event.</p> <p>B. Open Committee Chairs for next year Yearbook Co-Chair (along with Rachel Schaar) Fall Fest Co-Chairs (2 or 3 people to chair event) – the date is Friday, Oct. 21 Movie Night Chair Kindergarten Play-date Chair Sixth Grade Graduation Chairs Eat and Earn Co-Chair (along with Teresa Gruenwald) McDonald's Night Co-Chair</p> <p>C. Teacher /Classroom Support Procedure and Form Home and School will let staff know that they can fill out a new form to request funds for teacher or classroom learning opportunities.</p> <p>D. Malone Park Playground Picket Elmwood Home and School would like to have a picket at the new Malone Park Playground. Ann Stadler made a motion to donate \$40 to purchase the picket. Colleen Tadych seconded the motion. It was approved.</p> <p>E. Date changes for next year's meetings (different days of the week) Home and School will plan to have the Home and School meetings on different days of the week beginning in fall. There has been feedback from parents saying they have a standing commitment on Tuesday evenings so they can't attend meetings, so if meeting days are changed, more parents may be able to attend on evenings that work well for them.</p>
Elections	<p>Elections of Co-President and Secretary for July 1, 2016 – June 20, 2018 Term</p> <p>Co-President: Colleen Tadych nominated Theresa Sebestyen for co-president; Tracy G. seconded. Voting commenced and Theresa Sebestyen was approved unanimously.</p>

	Secretary: Theresa Sebestyen nominated Chrissy Kennedy-Kortes; Marlo McCormick seconded. Voting commenced and Chrissy Kennedy-Kortes was approved unanimously.
Treasurer's Report	<p>A. May Financials</p> <p>Ann Szefflinski highlighted some things since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another check came in from Amazon and Box Tops • Home and School is \$12,000 over our budgeted revenue. We are under \$10,000 in expenses, but will use that up by the end of the year. • Ann has arranged for a full audit of the books this summer. • There was discussion about how the money is used that is raised from flower and cookie sales at the musical. It was discussed that the money raised can be added to next year's musical budget. <p>B. Presentation and Approval of Budget for 2016-2017 School Year</p> <p>Ann Szefflinski said that the executive committee has looked extensively at the budget over the last few months, looking at every event and fundraiser and how they align with the Home and School's purpose. This budget is different than in the past because it isn't balanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've built up a surplus over the past two years (\$12,000 last year and \$10,000 for this year). We'd like to use \$15,000 of that toward bleachers in the Elmwood gym. Royce said he will be discussing with the School District on what amount they can contribute. The \$15,000 would be about half the cost of the bleachers. • For fundraisers, the executive committee looked at how much effort the fundraisers take to run versus how much money they raise. Ones that will not be continued include Target RedCard (this program is ending), Entertainment Book, Eat and Earn at Jason's Deli and Shop Until You Drop. • The executive committee also looked carefully at all Home and School events and asked - do they serve Home and School's purpose? Some signature events include Fall Fest, High Interest Day, Sixth Grade Graduation. Events that promote community with students and parents such as All-School Skate were also discussed as important and it was determined that Home and School should put its energy and volunteer hours behind these popular events. • Pam Breitigam, co-chair for the spring dance, said she would like to see an increase in the expense line so she could do some extra things for the dance such as a photo booth. Pam asked that the dance expense be raised to \$600. • Kathy Quandt mentioned holding a fundraiser at Country Springs Hotel next year. <p>Sara Johns made a motion to approve the budget with the \$150 addition for the spring dance. It was approved by those in attendance.</p>
Notes from the Principal and Vice Principal	<p>Royce shared his appreciation for Home and School and said the things this group has been able to accomplish have been "second to none! From teacher appreciation to playgrounds to dinners during conferences – they all add up to great things!" He said Elmwood teachers and staff are very appreciative. He said he looks forward to supporting the group in his role as a parent, as he moves to his new role in the District Office this summer.</p> <p>He also said that as Elmwood wraps up an exciting year, there are many highlights, including the work that Jaime has led with the behavior support and he said that Home and School's support of that has been great. He said they look forward to continuing and enhancing that in coming years. Royce also said thank you to Jaime for spearheading that effort and to families being supportive and encouraging the kids.</p> <p>Jaime said thank you for all that Home and School does. She said she has been in awe of the work that we do! She also said Elmwood staff and families will miss Royce, but she is looking forward to next year.</p>

	Jaime said the final APawzz program will be Culture Shock Chicago (they do hip hop dance). They will do a performance and involve students and teachers in learning dance moves. They will come for two performances on June 7. She said she is excited to have a big performance for the last APawzz !
Past Events	<p>A. Eat and Earn at Jason's Deli – March 22 It went well and made \$112.</p> <p>B. Book Fair – April 22-29 Book Fair was our largest spring fair! Home and School earned almost \$7000 in Scholastic dollars (which goes back to classroom books). Jaime and Royce used some of the banked money to buy books. For our coin challenge, students raised \$1000!</p> <p>C. Spring Dance – April 23 Pam Breitigam reported that 130 people bought tickets in advance and 23 people came at the door. Twenty-nine dozen baked goods were donated by parents and there were donations from Helium. She also said a thank you to the seven parent volunteers. She said they tweaked some things, including more lights in the gym and the photographer allowed parents to download photos for free. The dance made about \$1000.</p> <p>D. Staff Appreciation Week – May 2-6 Collen Tadych reported that the week had a superhero theme. It started with flowers from the students. There were capes for staff to wear (made by Sharon Reistma and Colleen Tadych) – and if they were seen wearing them, they were entered in for a drawing. Thanks to Carolyn Stegmeir for decorating the front office, to Kim Jaquez for making tootsie roll pops with capes and to Karen Kline for making water bottles with capes. Mrs. Oswald said it was very clever and teachers appreciated it. Mrs. Bergunde mentioned that it was really appreciated by teachers and a good motivator at the end of the year!</p> <p>E. Artome Art Show – May 10 at New Berlin Public Library Sara Johns gave a report and said it was a good event. Kelly Christianson coordinated it for 1st-6th grades – 488 pieces total were on display. We sold 136 pieces – parents and student were excited to take their artwork home. She heard a lot of feedback that the students loved seeing their artwork in another place!</p>
Upcoming Events	<p>A. High Interest Day Alison Giese said they are in pretty good shape, but could use some more volunteers. Anything you can do to help get volunteers would be great! There will be lots of high school students coming – it has been great community!</p> <p>B. Sixth Grade Completion Ceremony – June 9th Kara Erchull said things are going well for planning and will be a great evening. If you know of any fifth grade parents that want to come and see it to get a feel for what it is all about, let Kara know.</p>
Other Committee Reports	A. Campbell Soup Labels and Box Tops Contest The current contest is going on through June 2 nd . Campbell Soup label money is used for playground equipment and we will order it again this summer.
Open Floor	Thank you to Molly Carroll and Rachel Schaar for their service.
Adjourn	Theresa Sebestyen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tracy G. seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.
Next Meeting	See you in the fall!

Reports from Staff

Band: The Elmwood Band recently did an excellent job performing our final spring concert. It's always exciting to listen to the concert with the music the students are able to perform while reflecting back at the beginning of the school year, when the students came into band not even knowing how to even put their instruments together! They've come very far in one school year and I hope that they all enjoy a very bright musical future!

Orchestra: Orchestra members (as well as band and choir members) just performed at their spring concert on Tuesday. Orchestra members performed pieces that they had written, they improvised solos, they featured pieces by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak, and they ended with a combined 5th/6th grade piece, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." Congratulations all! Next week, fourth graders will be visiting the orchestra room to learn about their opportunity to join orchestra next year as fifth graders.

Kindergarten: On May 12th, kindergartners performed in front of their families a program of "Singing Our Curriculum". We sang many of our favorite songs about reading, writing and math. Everyone had an opportunity to either speak into the microphone or "dance" in front of the crowd. They kids were so excited they declared it "The best day ever!" But then... we went to the farm to celebrate the end of the year. We pet so many animals and played on so many different types of equipment, we were completely exhausted as we returned to school. However, that day quickly became, "The best day ever!" During this year of learning and growing, the children have really bonded with each other and created friendships that hopefully will last throughout their school career.

First Grade: The first graders just had their Fine Arts Night and were so excited to show off their artwork, classroom work, and musical performance! We just finished up our realistic fiction series writing in writer's workshop and are studying plants. We enjoyed our field trip to the Urban Ecology Center!

Second Grade: The second graders also just had their fine arts night and had fun inviting their families to Elmwood in celebration of all the hard work and practice they did to prepare for such a special evening. The second graders continue to focus on using technology to highlight their understanding of topics they are learning about in class. A new app was introduced called "Book Creator". Second graders published their own nonfiction book on a nonfiction topic of their choice including many pictures, text features and expert words. Next week second graders are off to the zoo to see animals and habitats up close as we wrap up this study as our focus in science.

Fourth Grade: 4th grade is really excited about our first annual Elmwood Expo that will take place on Friday, May 27th. Students have been researching and collaborating with their peers across the grade level to research Wisconsin businesses and their effect on the economy. We have incorporated many digital tools such as: comic life, QR codes, explain everything and love surveys. Students have made contact with Wisconsin businesses and many companies donated supplies and sent them to our students to showcase or giveaway during their presentations.

Fifth Grade: Fifth graders are near completing the D.A.R.E program that New Berlin Police sergeant Thompson has been teaching the last semester. Students officially graduate tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the gym. Students have learned many life lessons, decision making models and strategies on how to cope with situations that can come up in life.

Sixth Grade: We were excited to finish up our last science unit over the past month! We studied weather factors, major storms, and climate/earth changes. After 3 weeks of learning about all of these fun topics, students spent a week creating a project they would present to their table group. They made amazing models, posters, powerpoints and videos, they always surprise me with their creative ideas! One student created a lego land to show what Joplin looked like before the tornado and what it looked like after the tornado. She even created a model of the tornado to show how it picked up debris in its path! Amazing.

As our final social studies unit, we are so excited to be studying Rome. We will be creating posters, having group discussions, learning about geography, and presenting to one another. What a great way to wrap up the school year!

Sixth graders are reading and writing about social issues! They are currently writing multiple persuasive essays on topics that are important to them or that they would like to see change!

In math, sixth graders have been working on finding the surface area and volume of polyhedrons. To learn about this topic, we made our own "Khan Academy" videos using the iPads and the Explain Everything app to explain their topics! Kids then used their videos to teach their peers about their topic!

Currently, sixth graders are studying statistics. Kids are working hard to find the mean, median and mode of data sets, as well as how to measure the variation of a data set by finding the range, mean absolute deviation, or the interquartile range! WOW!