



Home and School Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

November 17, 2015

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, Erica Oswald

Parents: Marlo McCormick, Theresa Sebestyen, Tracy G., Tonia Schmear, Shelly Greeson, Sara Johns, Colleen Tadych, Kim Jaquez, Kathy Barnhart, Nicole Zautis

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS
Call to order	Meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.
Review/Approve Minutes	Motion by Colleen Tadych to approve Sept. 15, 2015 Home and School Meeting Minutes; seconded by Tracy G.; minutes approved.
Notes from Co-Presidents	<p>Molly Carroll and Kara Erchull gave updates on some Home and School fundraisers:</p> <p>A. Matty's Card Kara Erchull shared information about the new Matty's Card. The letter and order form went home with every family this week and details about the fundraiser are in the letter and order form. Kara mentioned that the letter states Home and School could earn \$27,000 if every family sold two cards; it is really \$16,000 if every family sold 2 cards. This fundraiser can help replace some of the fundraisers that are going away including Market Day, Target (in May 2016) and also possibly Entertainment Books. Molly reviewed some of the advantages of the Matty's card – she mentioned there are many great deals and the card can pay for itself after one or two uses!</p> <p>B. Target's Take Charge of Education Target is ending their education fundraising efforts in May 2016 and moving to a wellness initiative. But we will continue raising funds through May 2016, so keep your card linked!</p> <p>C. Market Day/World's Finest Chocolate Market Day was bought by World's Finest Chocolate this past summer and discontinued the frozen food fundraising efforts. World's Finest Chocolates offered every Market Day customer the same profit that we made from Market Day last school year if we sold at least eight boxes of chocolate bars. Home and School purchased the eight boxes (containing 60 \$1 bars) and they will be sold at upcoming Home and School events.</p>
A Pawzzz Funds	<p>Associate Principal Jaime Veal said they are excited about the A Pawzzz behavior program that began this year at Elmwood. All the students' expectations are on posters that are posted in classrooms, cafeteria, hallways and throughout the school. These expectations are centered around being safe, respectful, responsible and being the One. Students have the opportunity to earn A Pawzzz tickets if they are displaying good behavior - being a leader, making good choices, etc. (things highlighted on the posters)</p> <p>Students can earn also individual incentives – every Friday two students from every grade are chosen to receive a special prize. Then each week, all tickets are put up on a special poster (a paw for quarter one and a large "E" for quarter two); the whole school works together to fill the poster and earn a prize. They did earn the first quarter prize – a dance that was held during school last week. The dance went over really well and the kids had a great time! The students are now working towards earning the all-school second quarter prize – a PJ day with movie time and hot cocoa.</p>

	<p>Jaime said the first event cost \$300 and they are planning that the next three events would cost similar amounts for a total of \$900 more needed for this year. Another \$100 has been spent in small incentives, so they are estimating another \$300 would be needed for the rest of the year. Jaime said they are trying to get donations from the community, but wanted to ask if Home and School would consider giving money towards this program.</p> <p>Meeting attendees had discussion and asked questions. Royce mentioned that when working on an all-school incentive, they want things to stay fresh so students will stay excited about the program. One attendee suggested giving some money now, see how the Matty's fundraiser goes and then re-visit the topic at a later meeting. Meeting attendees agreed and so Sara Johns made a motion that Home and School would fund the second quarter event at a cost of \$300 plus the cost of the smaller incentives for the rest of the year (\$300) for a total of \$600. Tracy G. seconded the motion. Attendees voted on the motion and it passed.</p>
<p>Notes from the Principal</p>	<p>Principal Royce Lindner mentioned that Kelly Christianson (art teacher) and Sara Johns are working on a fundraising project called Artome. Students will make artwork during art class and then Artome will frame the artwork and display it at the New Berlin Public Library on May 10, when parents and community members will be invited to come and view the art. Framed artwork is a set price and then Home and School can set the price to make it a partial fundraiser (probably around \$25). Once the event is over, the company unframes the art that isn't sold and then the artwork is returned to the school. The company will do the set-up and take-down for us (they provide all frames and display racks). Royce mentioned that volunteers will be needed to staff the event, probably from 2-7 p.m. Molly suggested doing an Eat and Earn program at Dickey's that same day.</p> <p>Royce also talked about the new grading system. The system Elmwood is using has its own algorithm. He said the grading and reporting has been a lot of work for the teachers and they are still working on the pieces of the program and working out kinks. He encouraged parents to talk to himself or Jaime if they have any questions - he said they are happy to discuss it!</p>
<p>Review of Past Events</p>	<p>A. Teacher Welcome Bags/Staff Dinner Colleen Tadych, chair of Hospitality/Staff Appreciation committee, mentioned that on Meet the Teacher Night in August, each staff person received a "survival" kit from Home and School. She also thanked the 15 volunteers that helped with the chalking of the school for the first day – it was a fun start to the school year. This committee also hosted a tropical dinner for staff for the first night of conferences. Thank you to all the people that donated food.</p> <p>B. McDonald's Night – Oct. 1 Home and School raised \$425 from the first McDonald's Night. Thank you to all teachers and staff that volunteered and attended. And thank you to all families that stopped by to purchase dinner.</p> <p>C. Fall Fest – Oct. 30 Fall Fest Chair Shelly Greeson mentioned that the Fall Fest went well and the DJ (a new addition to Fall Fest) was well-received. Attendees at the meeting felt the addition of the Kohl's art program was also a good thing. Some suggestions for next year – less food is needed and spider hunt times can be advertised on the flyer ahead of time. Thank you to Shelly for all of her hard work in planning this great event!</p> <p>D. Book Fair – Nov. 2-6 Book Fair Chair Molly Carroll said we had another successful book fair! Home and School gave every student a free book (\$5 for K-3; \$6 for grades 4-6). Total sales were \$11,701.05 (about the same as last fall). Home and School received 50% of that amount in Scholastic Dollars plus some bonus money for a total of over \$6,000. Molly said that each classroom teacher was given \$40 in Scholastic dollars to spend on classroom books. Royce and Jaime are going next week to the Scholastic warehouse to spend the rest of the scholastic dollars on classroom books. Molly said thank you to</p>

	<p>all the volunteers and thank you to parents who bought books. Molly also mentioned that parents can check out the thank you posters that were created by all the grade levels – what a great thank you!! The next Book Fair will be held in April.</p> <p>E. Chipotle Eat and Earn – Nov. 6 Home and School earned \$338.53. Chipotle gives 50% profit and we can do one each quarter. Attendees agreed that we should have a Chipotle night again, as well as Eat and Earn events at other area restaurants.</p> <p>F. Skate Night – Nov. 12 147 people attended Skate Night. Home and School will receive \$74 from that event. The next Skate Night will be Feb. 25.</p> <p>Other past Home and School activities discussed: Theresa Sebestyen said there were two kindergarten playdates and both were well attended. For next year, Theresa suggested holding one playdate after bus night again and making it more of a social hour with pizza and drinks. Also it might be nice to include new families to Elmwood so they could learn about the bus system and meet other families.</p> <p>Kindergarten t-shirts (money just passes through Home and School): Kindergarten teacher Colleen Korom shared about how the students make the t-shirts and use them for field trips.</p> <p>Ann Szefflinski mentioned that Home and School provides seat sacks for sale on Photo days and Meet the Teacher Night.</p>
Upcoming Events	<p>A. Movie Night – Nov. 20 All families are invited to Movie Night. Inside Out will be the movie shown. Popcorn will be available for free and water and chocolate will be for sale. Parents and guardians needs to be with children (not a drop-off event). Spirit Wear will also be for sale.</p> <p>B. Spirit Day – Nov. 25 Theresa Sebestyen said another spirit wear form is going out next week if families would like to place an order. On Spirit Day, students are encouraged to wear Elmwood spirit wear or purple and silver (school colors)</p> <p>C. Shop Until You Drop – Dec. 5 Volunteer sign-up has been in Paw Prints and is also on the website. Bakers are also needed for the bake sale.</p> <p>D. 2nd Annual Holiday Cookie Day – Dec. 21 For the second annual event, volunteers bake holiday cookies and treats and then staff are invited to come and collect a box of cookies and treats to take home. Colleen Tadych will send out an invitation for bakers soon. Last year, we had 75 people bake!</p>
Treasurer's Report	<p>Ann Szefflinski reported on some key changes in the budget. See separate financial summary for more information.</p> <p>Ann shared some goals of what she is doing as treasurer this year, including sharing budgeting with the Chess Coach (Home and School holds money for Chess Club), taking Cart Mart off the books and trying to better explain to parents how the Home and School money is raised and used and why fundraisers are needed.</p> <p>Ann asked committee chairs to use the tax exempt form when purchasing something for an event or activity, especially when paying for things over \$25. She asked that all deposit request forms be placed into the Home and School box – she checks that box regularly.</p> <p>After discussion by the attendees about Eat and Earn, Ann will add separate line items for each Eat and Earn restaurant, so Home and School can build a history of what restaurants work as</p>

	the best fundraisers.
Other Committee Reports	<p>A. High Interest Day Theresa Sebestyen, Co-Chair, said they made a lot of changes last year – including many new sessions for sports and other sessions where leaders donated their services so they ended up with an extra \$1182. Theresa said the committee would like to have that money come back for the committee to use. She said they are hoping to lower or eliminate the cost to families for High Interest Day.</p> <p>Sara Johns made a motion for Home and School to give \$1182 back to the High Interest Day committee. Tracy G. seconded the motion. The attendees voted on the motion and it passed.</p> <p>B. Amazon Smile This is another easy low effort fundraiser. Make sure to go through smile.amazon.com every time you shop.</p>
Staff Reports	<p>Erica Oswald (2nd grade teacher) said that the teachers and staff really appreciate what Home and School does! She explained that every staff person has joined a Building Leadership Team (BLT) and she, along with Kris Olderman, Maria Brunner, Colleen Korom, Monica Lapin and Kari Larson, are part of the Family Connection Team. This team works to better communicate with the families of Elmwood. One recent idea that came from this team was the thank you posters and projects that classes made as a thank you to Home and School and all the parent volunteers for their help with the Book Fair. The Family Connection Team also encourages staff to attend events and remember to thank parent volunteers!</p> <p>Prior to each Home and School meeting, this team will gather updates and highlights from each grade, as well as the specials, and present them at the meetings. This month's highlights include:</p> <p>Kindergarten – Kindergarten low class sizes has been great! They are learning to read and using their superpower reading strategies regularly. This fall they went on a field trip to a pumpkin farm and soon they will have an in-house field trip with David Stokes, who will be bringing in animals. Kindergartners are also doing great learning routines and becoming friends.</p> <p>1st grade – First grade just started our second unit in our new social studies curriculum. We will be learning about school helpers and are arranging for Mr. Lindner, Mrs. Veal, Ms. Hauser, Ms. Chapman, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Miller and others to come into our classrooms to be interviewed by our first graders about their jobs and how they help kids! This week we are also participating in a food drive for the New Berlin Food Pantry. In the spirit of thanksgiving, every first grader was asked to donate a box of cereal for less fortunate children in our own community. We continue to work hard and grow as readers, writers and mathematicians!</p> <p>2nd grade – Second graders are building reader stamina and learning more about characters and character traits using longer text and beginning chapter books. Writers are writing realistic fiction stories after recently publishing their personal narrative stories. In science, second graders have been learning about rocks and soil as we move toward a focus on health and nutrition. A focus for our second graders is being a responsible community member and learning about map skills in geography.</p> <p>3rd grade – Third grade is furthering its understanding of multiplication using various properties of multiplication. Students are wrapping up their opinion papers and conferring with peers. In reading, we are concluding our reading unit on nonfiction and will be using these skills through the year. We are looking forward to our study of simple machines.</p> <p>4th grade – In reading, our current unit is focusing on nonfiction (Reading the Weather, Reading the World). Students have been assigned a weather-related topic. Within their topic,</p>

	<p>they have selected a subtopic in which they conducted research so they could become an expert on that topic. Students then are teaching their classmates about their subtopic. In writing, students are currently writing opinion and persuasive essays. They are doing a great job at stating their opinion and persuading their classmates. Last week, fourth grade went to Madison to take a tour of the state Capitol. We were pleasantly surprised with meeting Senator Mary Lazich. She met us in the Senate Chamber and told the students all about her role as our representative. We even had a school photo taken with Senator Lazich.</p> <p>5th grade – Within Inquiry Time, a fifth grade student was passionate about helping younger students and began doing research on the impact of student tutoring. She presented her idea to staff and is in the beginning stages of setting up a tutoring program with 5th and 6th grade volunteers (once a week they will give up their recess) to work with an assigned 2nd-4th grader in need of reading or math help. We’re also building a website that allows for a discussion for these students to communicate outside of their meeting times.</p> <p>6th grade – In sixth grade, the students have really fell into the routine of having multiple teachers, or should we say subject area experts! In writing, the students have truly turned into literary essayists by constructing powerful claims about a text and supporting it with compelling textual evidence! Students are not only reading about characters and themes in Reader’s Workshop but also writing about them in Writer’s Workshop. Social studies has been exciting so far. We have learned about three ancient worlds, Mesopotamia and China. Right now, we are creating our own website to show our understanding of essential questions about Ancient Egypt! In math, kids are working hard to use precise language to describe their mathematical thinking to partners. Sixth graders use specific language to clearly state numbers, including place value terminology and vocabulary. So far this year, we have learned how to perform all operations using whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Wow! Now we are starting to learn how to write and evaluate algebraic expressions by using key words to guide us. Who knew so much language was included in math?!</p> <p>Orchestra – Orchestra members have been composing their own pieces and parents and students will be able to hear a few of them featured at the winter concert, which will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elmwood gym. To end the orchestra portion of the concert, combined 5th and 6th grade orchestra members will be performing two pieces together: “Ukrainian Bell Carol” and “Jingle Bells.” We’re getting excited to share what we’ve been working on in front of an audience!</p> <p>Band – The Elmwood Band has been busy since the beginning of the year learning the first notes on our instruments and learning how to perform not only with our small lesson groups but as a band, too. The band is off to a great start! The students started with learning some familiar folk songs and now we’ve moved on the learning all of the music that we will be performing in our upcoming Winter Concert on Dec. 17th. The students are getting very excited to perform this first concert! There will be a school performance during the afternoon and a performance for families at Elmwood at 6:30 p.m. that evening. We share this concert with the Elmwood Orchestra and Choir, too. Everyone is welcome!</p>
Open Floor	Royce mentioned that the school musical has been chosen – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. He said it looks like a great musical that will provide a lot of opportunities for parts, but help will be needed with set design (some building would be needed). Please reach out to Royce if you can help!
Adjourn	Theresa Sebestyen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tracy G. seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.
Next Meeting	Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.