



Home & School Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2013
Elmwood Library
7:00 – 9:00pm
Minutes

1) Welcome & Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Officers – Colleen Tadych, Alison Giese

Staff – Principal Royce Lindner, Assistant Principal Meghan Lippold

Parents – Robin Goff, Rachel Schaar, Sara Johns, Molly Carroll, Ann Szefflinski, Tonia Schmeier, Cathy Bartels, Kim Smith, Jeff Goff, Mike Shepherd

2) Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2013

No corrections. Motion to approve minutes by Sara Johns and seconded by Molly Carroll. Minutes approved.

3) Notes from the Co-President, Colleen Tadych

Colleen reported on the results of a revised survey that Principal Lindner sent to the teachers. This was an attempt to further refine the teacher's priorities for needs for H&S funds this year. The top ranking items were replacing the K-3 playground equipment, building classroom libraries with leveled reading resources, and funding for local conferences (continuing education).

Colleen reported that the Fall Book Fair was a huge success and thanked the volunteers and especially Molly Carroll for her leadership.

Colleen told the group about a meeting with all four New Berlin elementary school H&S board members at the end of October. She explained that all of the schools have had challenges with recruiting parent volunteers. Colleen thanked all parents at Elmwood who have donated their time and energy to make our events so successful.

Ann Szefflinski asked Colleen to expand on the meeting with the other elementary schools and asked if there were any ideas shared that could benefit Elmwood. Colleen and Alison responded that there were many ideas shared and differences identified in the events being held and how each school decides how much to spend on the various events. The H&S groups at the elementary

schools are now connected over Facebook and plan to share successes and struggles throughout the school year.

There was discussion about sharing costs for events/assemblies and also being careful not to overburden New Berlin businesses with requests for donations from all four schools. Colleen noted that there will be continued discussion among the H&S organizations so these points will be considered

Sara Johns asked if we can use the other school's Facebook pages to cross advertise events like Shop 'Til You Drop. This would allow us to get the word out about our events that are open to the community.

Colleen noted that the Elmwood H&S Facebook page has been a great addition and thanked Sara for her efforts in maintaining it.

4) Notes from our Principal, Royce Lindner

Quarter 1 is finished! Mr. Lindner is encouraging families to use the new Compass Learning software for math and reading practice at home. Information was provided to families with the announcement of Quarter 1 report cards regarding Compass Learning and how to log in. This is the one online resource that families and students have that is directly linked to MAP testing results. Activities in Compass Learning are customized to each student's level and areas needing further review. Mr. Lindner is interested in feedback from families about the usage of Compass Learning.

A question was asked about the difference between Compass Learning and the Pearson online program. Pearson is math practice only and is specific to the grade level, while Compass Learning includes reading and some science in addition to math. Mr. Lindner explained that it's important in Compass Learning to complete an assigned task before logging off otherwise the work won't be saved and the student will need to re-do the assignment.

Rachel Schaar mentioned that the Compass Learning program is not reliable to use on an iPad. Mr. Lindner has reported the technical challenges using a tablet device to the vendor and expressed his own disappointment that the tool can't be used on tablets right now.

Mr. Lindner also gave feedback about parent teacher conferences this fall. Nearly 100% parent participation was achieved and he has collected input from teachers about the new format (3 dedicated evenings for conference scheduling). He would like to survey families about the format as well to get feedback.

Mrs. Lippold updated that many co-curriculars have started now and that the Artist in Residence program was very well received by students.

Mr. Linder and Mrs. Lippold told the group about the celebration assembly at school the week before. This was done to gather all students together to recognize successes at school and share achievements during the first few

months of the year. Classroom and individual students who scored very high compared to the “norm” on MAP tests were recognized in a special way. Assemblies like these will be done throughout the school year to recognize achievement and successes. Students were also recognized for participating in school events.

5) Treasurer’s Report

Alison reviewed the most recent financial statement. For the revenue section, we are on track with all sources of revenue so far this year. We received a little unbudgeted revenue from selling the last set of Marcus movie tickets, a fundraiser from several years ago. Molly Carroll took over the remaining inventory of tickets last year and the only thing remaining is a few gift certificates. Molly will report back on the total amount of gift certificates we still have and we will consider selling them at a discounted rate to the Elmwood families.

Alison reported that the expense section of the financial statement is also on track with budget. A few events or plans have come in under budget and we don’t expect to spend the full amount budgeted. Fall Fest and Instructional Books for new teachers are examples. The Fall Fest organizers were able to cover most of their costs with hot chocolate and water sales. The brand new teachers will get their new classroom books via Scholastic Dollars earned from the book fair profits. So far we expect to be under budget on expenses this year.

One line item discussed further was Co-Curriculars. The budget was approved at \$1700 at the September H&S meeting. However, the request was made through Mr. Lindner that some additional co-curricular contracts be added to the budget this year. The additional positions were 1 drama assistant (\$500), 2 speed stacking instructors (\$300 each), and an Audio Visual specialist to maintain equipment and set up for events (\$300). A motion was made by Ann Szefflinski to increase the budget to \$3500. This includes the existing \$1700 budget plus the additional \$1100 in contracts plus 13% additional for FICA as the district will need to include this in their contract payment to these staff members. Cathy Bartels seconded the motion. A vote was taken and motion was approved.

6) Committee Reports

Hospitality/Staff Appreciation (Alison Giese) – Teachers are organizing their own social hour on Dec 13th at Matty’s. They have requested some H&S funds for food at this event. More details are being requested.

Shop Til You Drop (Colleen for Kathy Quandt)

Volunteers needed to bake/prepare treats for bake sale. Volunteers also needed for working the bake sale and raffle during the day (December 7th). A Sign Up Genius was sent in Elmwords.

Teacher/Staff Raffle (Kathy Quandt) – None

Junior Achievement (Colleen Tadych) – This is a new committee being suggested and we are looking for a chairperson. This person would work to ensure all grade levels are able to find a Junior Achievement representative (parents or community members) and that the program is being used consistently. Mr. Lindner reported that the District is very focused on Junior Achievement and has resources available to help this committee get going. Larry Lueck is the District contact person for Junior Achievement.

All School Skate (Colleen for Katie Schroeder) – There were 124 participants at the event in early November. H&S will receive a small amount of profit from this event. It was successful despite being scheduled the same night as conferences and the book fair.

Artist in Residence (Sara Johns) – Kirsten Christenson worked with every student on the paper making experience. Parent volunteers were excellent. Kirsten was also impressed and complimented the school staff for their involvement (especially seeing the principals visit the art room to check it out).

Book Fair (Molly Carroll) – The Fall Book Fair was the most successful one yet! Total sales were over \$12,000 and profits were about \$7,000 in Scholastic Dollars. Every student received a \$5 book and every teacher was able to use \$30 Scholastic Dollars to buy books for their classrooms. Elmwood's total balance of Scholastic Dollars is now near \$10,000 and there are several ways that Mr. Lindner is considering using these funds this year.

Molly reported another successful campaign for the Scholastic "All for Books" coin challenge. We raised over \$1,700 which was used to buy books for the library and Scholastic donates 1 book for every dollar raised to a charity that helps kids in need obtain new books.

Finally, Molly shared that before the Book Fair, she offered the teachers a preview event where they could browse and fill their wish list baskets. This was well received and will continue to be done for future book fairs.

Movie Night (Colleen for Ann Loomans) – upcoming event on Friday, November 22nd at 6:15pm.

Fall Fest (Colleen for Shelly Krocka) – It was noted that many teachers participated this year. The group asked if we should advertise for parents to come in costume too. Other feedback included controlling outdoor access to students and finding some additional activities for older students (possibility of a DJ and area for dancing). Additionally, there was feedback that the pumpkin painting craft was cute but messy and wasn't easy to transport home. Robin Goff volunteered to work with the chairperson of this event next year.

Kindergarten Getting To Know You (Colleen) – Sara Johns volunteered to organize this event next summer.

Sixth Grade Graduation (Colleen) – There is a list of parent volunteers interested in helping with planning but we are still looking for a chairperson.

Wilderness Weekend (Colleen) – This will be the first weekend in December. We have not received final counts of how many families are signed up.

7) **Open Floor**

Mr. Lindner said that he has created a folder on the school's network to store pictures of students taken throughout the year. He is using these in various presentations and assemblies to show the fun activities and interactions at school. If parents have taken pictures in the classroom or on field trips he would like to expand his selection. Please email pictures to Mr. Lindner or give him a CD with the photo files.

Sara Johns – The Facebook page is going well. We have 80 “likes” at this time. Only Sara can post new messages but anyone is able to comment. We can evaluate if we need others to be able to post new information.

- 8) **Adjourn** – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 7pm in the Elmwood Library. Motion to adjourn by Robin Goff and seconded by Sara Johns. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.