East Hills Middle School PTO
Meeting Minutes
2015-2016 School Year
April 13, 2016 9:30am
Location: Gateway

I. Call to order T. Kevelighan

The meeting was called to order by T. Kevelighan at 9:37 a.m.

II. Welcome T. Kevelighan

Attendees introduced themselves and two gifts were given away. Attached sign in sheet.

III. Guest Speaker Charlie Hollerith, BHHS Principal

- C. Hollerith speaks annually at EHMS and discussed the "year of transition" at Bloomfield Hills High School (BHHS). Approximately 1, 671 students at BHHS and over 100 EHMS 8th graders have expressed interest in the IB Diploma Program at BHHS. The IB Diploma program has over 40 students in the graduating class, compared to 10-15 in the past. Increase in requests for BHHS tours and sign up is available online.
- Learning communities are working well - (3) 9th grade and (4) 10th grade learning communities, consisting of core classes - English, Math, Social Studies, and Science with 100-125 students who stay with their cohort, although they mix with other students during electives and lunch time.
- Block scheduling with odd/even days, 90-minute class periods, and off days with advisory. Course requests from incoming 9th graders have been submitted and were finalized when students and parents met with counselors at EHMS. Students will have the same counselor (and advisory teacher) for all four years at BHHS. Associate principals are assigned to students based on the alphabet, as the counselors are assigned.
- One concern from parents regarding scheduling: Math 8 vs. Algebra 1 for EHMS students and what track they should follow going into high school. Follow-up Question: What are the various tracks at BHHS? IB courses, IB Diploma Program, Dual Enrollment, Honors courses, and AP courses are available - all are college preparatory and should be based on students' interests and career choices. Some colleges/career choices will require certain courses to be taken in high school. Online courses and a career technical academy is available as well.
- Every family of an incoming student should sign up now for the BHHS listserv and PTO Facebook page.
- SAT/ACT testing changes - now April instead of March; linked to Khan Academy this year with sample problems; 75% attendance is required to count it as a school day - there is an hourly count. There is a testing requirement for 11th graders for graduation, governed by the Board of Education (BOE)
- Question: How are issues resolved at BHHS? The counselor should be the first point of contact, followed by assistance from the assigned associate principal. C. Hollerith recommended that families introduce themselves to teachers/staff in the beginning of the

school year, and parents should encourage students to seek help from their advisory teachers. Some teachers are available to meet with students in the morning.

IV. Approval of Minutes S. Crider

R. Shbeib motioned to approve the March 2016 meeting minutes as distributed during the meeting. E. Watson seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report R. Shbeib

R. Shbeib reviewed the distributed reports and reminded everyone of the transfer of funds to Citizens Bank. Financial statements will be brought to every meeting. Carryover balances will remain at $10,000 each year.

VI. Committee Reports All Representatives/Chairs

a. DAERR 4/18, 5/16, 6/20

S. Crider discussed the number of administrators, teachers/staff, parents/guardians, and community members trained - Global Champions and Institute for Healing Racism. Restorative Practices training numbers are forthcoming. A. Konzen reported EHMS Global Education Team (GET) led the initiative for the district's GET logo.

b. Staff Appreciation 4/25

L. Rhoads will set up posters for students to write notes to all teachers. An online sign up is available for donations. Each day will provide food, goodie bags, and/or massages during the week.

c. Nominating

Bylaws are being changed and will be posted in May. A vote will take place at the June PTO meeting.

d. Green Committee

E. Watson reported focus on the courtyard outside of the media center for next year. Clean up will include planting of MI flowers and help will be solicited from parents/guardians, 8th graders for community service, and Girl Scouts at Eastover. Benches may go in the courtyard and more recycle bins will be visible. A Rizzo assembly will be held.

e. BBFA

Yangsi couldn't attend the last BBFA meeting. Flier attached for 4/19/16 meeting on parenting.

f. Ice-Cream Social 5/20

T. Kevelighan and L. Rhoads will take the lead on planning. Raffle items needed.

g. 8th Grade Breakfast 6/10

Students will have pancakes.

h. 8th Grade Party 6/16

PTO providing cookies and lemonade. Sign up coming soon.

i. 8th Grade Assembly 6/17

This is a formal recognition ceremony.

VII. President's Report T. Kevelighan

a. Ad Hoc Committee Update

Financial documents were finally provided by the Business Office. Bylaw changes are forthcoming.

b. Suggestion Box

T. Kevelighan will follow up with J. Rubel to discuss this further.

c. PTO Council (PTOC)

No buildings have been sold yet; district is still reviewing proposals received. District has a $1.5 million operating deficit.Twenty-percent of eligible students attend private schools, based on Plant Moran CRESA data. Over 260 tours have been completed this year; there is public curiosity. S. Good, communications director, asked families to visit www.greatschools.org to give positive feedback.

VIII. Principal's Report — J. Rubel

EHMS earned Emerald status this year. W. Schwartz was at the incoming 5th grade orientation. Fourth graders are visiting EHMS on the same day as the 5th grade musical. Incoming 6th grade parent coffee is next week and PTO reps requested. D.C. parent information night is 4/25/16. Parent/teacher conferences are coming up. J. Rubel discussed experiences at the Institute for Healing Racism. Fourth grade may be moving to EHMS in two years - the WHMS tour was completed and listserv announcements have communicated invitations and collaborative meetings between Eastover and EHMS.

IX. Unfinished Business — OPEN

No unfinished business.

X. New Business — OPEN

No new business.

XI. Adjourn — T. Kevelighan

T. Kevelighan adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Next PTO Meeting is **May 11, 2016 at 9:30am