

September 16, 2020

Attendees: Shane Hieronimus, Amber Blume, Nikki Schmaltz, Allison Pay-Crawford, Kristina Sipma, Katie Sumey, Emily Spaans, Rihoko Colwill, Amber Edelen, Karen Walters, Connie Niedera, Julie Parker, Jennifer Stensaas, Kelly Blount, and Samuel (no last name given).

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm.

The members of the PTO board introduced themselves to the group, followed by all participants. Nikki and Allison introduced the PTO and past projects and contributions the PTO has made to Edison. Due to Covid-19, many of the activities and fundraisers of the PTO will look quite different this year, being cancelled or delayed in many cases.

Minutes

Karen moved and Emily seconded to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2020, meeting as presented in the chat window of the Zoom meeting. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kristina Sipma presented the Treasurer's Report on a shared Zoom screen. Fundraisers from the past won't be possible this year, but we will rely on parent donations. Discussion followed regarding numerous items on the budget. The names of the signers for the checking account have been updated at the bank to reflect the current PTO officers (Nikki Schmaltz, Allison Crawford, and Kristina Sipma).

Discussion was had throughout the meeting regarding the 2020-21 budget. The budget shows \$8400 in projected income, expenses at \$9436.25. Net loss \$1,036.25. This puts the ending checkbook balance \$9,587.30 for the year. Karen moved to approve the budget and Katie seconded. Approved.

Principal's Report

Shane Hieronimus gave the principal's report. There are about 1205 students in Edison – 1000 in the building and 205 in the Edison Virtual Academy.

More information will come out on Sept 21 regarding parent teacher conferences. Most conferences will be virtual, but there will be an option for limited in-person or phone conferences. Having interpreters on hand is a consideration in these cases. There will be 2 days of conferences rather than 3 days this year. With regard to meals, staff will be at Edison during the conference days for those meetings on Oct 6 and 8. As of now, it would be possible to accept donations for conference meals. Homemade food would work in addition to pre-packaged, and staff within the school (such as the EAs) can serve the meals if wearing gloves and masks.

Scholastic is willing to do a virtual book fair. Karen has been in contact with their contact person and will continue working with her to make this happen.

The year has had a great start. As a building, the first two days of school went very well. Kids seemed less stressed starting with fewer kids in the building on the first day of school, and staff felt able to build personal connections with the kids this way. Nearly all kids are wearing masks in the building, while only a few are not due to family choice and/or medical concerns.

There are 205 students in the Virtual Academy at this time. They are able to come into the building for band, orchestra, chorus, athletics, and extracurricular activities. VA students take 5 classes – their four core areas and then Spanish or health.

When students attending in the Edison building are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid case, students use Schoology while at home to keep up with their classes. This is separate from the Virtual Academy. All assignments are in Schoology. Staff will be able to record themselves giving instruction or a lesson and post it onto their Schoology platform. The students access Schoology through their Chromebooks.

The school also created a Learning Center for students in order to fill gaps that developed due to illness or quarantine at home.

MAP testing has gone well. This will create a baseline to see where any gaps are that need to be addressed with classroom instruction. The staff will be able to assess this data on both individual and overall levels.

New Business

Mary Grandi is the Spiritwear coordinator. Spiritwear items should be done the end of next week or early the following week and then delivered to the school, or to homes if they were ordered for home delivery. The company is still working on the invoice but we will not have any expense we need to pay; any expense was built in to the cost of the items.

Parent teacher conference meal options were discussed in depth with regard to various options (catering vs donated food items vs monetary donations) and the budget.

Ideas were also discussed regarding fundraising options, particularly with regard to requesting direct donations from families in order to cover the expenses of the PTO for this year given that typical fundraising events cannot occur. Allison and Nikki will work with Mr. Hieronimus on sending home envelopes as well as sending out an email with a direct link to donate via Paypal online.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.