



Eastover PTO Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 7:00pm

Attendees:

Cyndi Smyly	Carey Crocker	Christina Kouzouz
Paul Kolin	Kathryn Halonen	Meg Spence
John VanGemert	Michelle Southward	Megan Preston
Elle Gardner	Pat Watson	Katherine Kosco
Rebecca Ealy	Theresa Barlow	Sam
M Happel	Kelly Newell	Jordan Camp
Sharon Kausler	Lisa Pelley	Denise James
Angie Blowers		

- I. Call to Order Cyndi Smyly
Called to order at 7:02pm
Cyndi briefly introduced the PTO board and also the School Board members in attendance (Michelle Southward, Paul Kolin, and Jonathan VanGemert), along with our Superintendent, Pat Watson.
- II. Review November Meeting Minutes Kathy Halonen
Minutes were motioned for approval by Cyndi Smyly and seconded by Megan Preston
- III. Treasurer's Report Megan Preston
Some money was brought in through spiritwear over the last couple of months; we are still offering a \$100 stipend to each teacher for this school year for supplies for their classrooms
- IV. Principal's Report Carey Crocker/Faculty
 - A. Principal Search Update: the search is on, and Mrs. Crocker will be staying on until a replacement is found and fully transitioned. There were over 100 applicants between the Eastover and Way principalships that are both open. Interviews will be conducted soon.
 - B. 2nd Semester Transition: the numbers seem to have evened out between Bloomfield Virtual and in-person options, and transitions should be smooth for second semester. Teachers are just getting their class lists, and will be reaching out to families the week before second semester. Mrs. Crocker will be holding some office hours for families who have questions about second semester – she will announce days/times soon. As far as the return to in person school (starting January 19), the same routines will be followed as were in place in the fall.
 - C. Save the date for a Kindergarten Information Session, which will be held on February 22. Look for details to be shared soon. This is for families of incoming kindergartners for the 2021-22 school year.
- V. Superintendent's Dialogue Pat Watson, Superintendent BHS
 - A. Return to School Update: K-8 will be returning on January 19; IA on January 25; BHHS on February 1. The same safety protocols and schedules will be in place as were in fall. The goal is to get everyone back and keep everyone safe. Metrics have been updated: we are no longer closing schools when we hit the "red" level or using "percent positives". This will now be handled on a

building level and even classroom level, in coordination with the county health department. Teachers are not mandated to get the vaccine; this is left as a personal decision.

B. School Boundary/Bond Update: in March & April we will be reaching out to PTOs and will hold a board study session to look at redrawing school boundaries; in June/July we will solicit community feedback; in September 2021 we will make a proposal to the board. This change is to be implemented in fall of 2023. There will be an update at this Thursday's board meeting of the bond proposal concerning the middle schools. Technology has been a big focus in looking at what the new learning spaces will look like.

C. Additional Updates and Q&A

Q: Will there will there be considerations to try to keep the lower elementary schools open if numbers rise in the high school age and not the younger kids?

A: Absolutely. These new metrics will be by building and by classroom. The district will be working closely with the county health department going forward. There is no threshold by case counts or percent positive any longer.

Q: What metrics/factors are driving half day cohorts versus full day in elementary? According to neighbors, Troy is able to go back full 5 days in elementary following safety guidelines. What specifically is holding us back from that same goal?

A: The difference in Troy is that they have a lot more students opting for virtual school. Their classes are much smaller, and they can stay 6 feet apart. If we had more students staying home, we would be doing the same thing. Half days also allow us to avoid potential lunchtime exposure, and also allow students to get core curriculum from their teacher (in person) four times a week. The goal is to get everyone back and keep them safe.

Q: What is the thought on returning for half days on Wednesdays?

A: We've elongated the instructional time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and teachers get more of their guaranteed prep time on Wednesdays. We've decided to stick with the same schedule going forward.

Q: is there an update on the search for the director of physical plant services?

A: Unfortunately, no. This is going to be a difficult position to fill. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested, please let Mr. Watson know.

Q: Will we continue to be notified in the same way if and when there is a case in our classroom?

A: Yes, an email will continue to go out at the end of each day.

Q: Can you please dive deeper into the teachers "planning time", since that holds us back from 5 half days. If they are teaching live 2 sessions a day for 2.75hrs over 4 days, it appears there is a significant amount of planning time. BV teachers are online from 9:05-3:30pm.

A: Keep in mind that part of that time is for meetings, but the same instructional time is happening in the classroom as on Bloomfield Virtual. Teachers get a minimum of 300 minutes of prep time per week, plus a 35 minute duty-free lunch. On Wednesdays, there are a few hours of live instruction (even though it's remote). On in person days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday), teachers teach the AM cohort, then go straight to bus duty, cleaning desks (getting ready for the PM cohort), have their duty free lunch, and then get kids off the bus and back in the classroom for the PM cohort. There is virtually no planning time for teachers during these days. Most of their guaranteed prep time comes on Wednesdays, and the district has to meet the contractual obligations. Instructional time is the same in BV and in person. Teachers are packing in as much instructional time as they can, while also keeping the students safe.

Q: Will BV be offered in the future?

A: There hasn't been a decision made. We will solicit community feedback in the spring that will be shared with the board and then we will decide the future of BV.

Q: What is the potential for in person teaching to change going forward?

A: If numbers continue to go down, then we can move to more instruction (5 days, still hybrid model with specials online). Priorities would be K-5, then 6-8, then high school. Leading indicator slides are posted on the district website, but you can email Mr. Watson if you'd like them sent to you.

VI. New Business

A. Young Authors Day & Talent Show (March/April) Cyndi Smyly

We have parent volunteers for these upcoming events; Cyndi will be reaching out to them to see what these events might look like for this spring. (Assemblies will not be happening this spring.) More information will be shared in the future. If anyone is interested in helping out with either of these, please reach out to Cyndi (eastovereaglespto@gmail.com).

VII. Committee Updates

A. Spirit Wear Kathy Halonen

We still have some inventory available for purchase. If interested, email (eastovereaglespto@gmail.com – subject Spirit wear). Items can be paid for online through our order form. Adult hoodies (\$25); child hoodies (\$20); all t-shirts (\$10) are all available.

B. Publishing Center Cyndi Smyly

Signups are closed and kits are ordered and should be in soon. Online kits and paper kits were offered. Once the kits arrive, more information on how to pick them up will be shared.

VIII. Announcements

Kathy Halonen

A. January Theme: Winter. Participate on our Facebook page (Eastover Eagles PTO). Photos showing the theme of "Winter" can be posted and you will be entered for a \$10 Amazon gift card.

B. Kindergarten Information Session - February 22nd, details to be announced

C. Sign up for PTO Communications

1. E-Blasts: Register at eastoverpto.org
2. Facebook Group: Eastover Eagles PTO

IX. Adjournment

Cyndi Smyly

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

Upcoming dates and events:

1/15 - HALF DAY OF SCHOOL

1/18 - NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/29 - HALF DAY OF SCHOOL, End of 1st Semester

2/1 - First day of 2nd Semester, Black History Month

2/2 - Eastover PTO Meeting, 7pm (via Zoom)

Be on the lookout for emails from school and Eastover PTO for up to date information on Programs/Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Have questions/comments/concerns/ideas/ or want to get involved?

Contact: Cyndi Smyly and/or Kathy Halonen - EastoverEaglesPTO@gmail.com