



Eastover PTO Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00pm

Attendees:	Cyndi Smyly	Angie Blowers	Theresa Barlow
	Megan Preston	Meg Spence	Margie Turowski
	Rob Durecka	Michelle Kurtycz	Dina Hurnevich
	Jamie Goldschmitt	Kathy Halonen	Marina Gillett
	Paul Willis	Kim Costis	Harleen Singh
	Charma Acheson	Jason Rubel	Angie Konzen
	Rebecca Ealy	Lindsay Donnellon	Shauntelle Angle
	Jen H	Katherine Kosco	Michelle Callahan
	Nichole Radcliffe	Kelly Van	Kimberly DiBartolomeo
	A Bies	Zachary Judson	Christina Kozouz
	Joslyn MacNeil	Gabby Chin	Katie Gardner
	Jennifer Gerback		

- I. Call to Order Cyndi Smyly
Meeting called to order at 7:03pm
- II. Review April Meeting Minutes Kathy Halonen
Kathy Halonen motioned for approval, Megan Preston seconds; minutes approved.
- III. President's Report Cyndi Smyly
Thank you to all of our parents who contributed to Teacher Appreciation this week – you were all so quick to help out and so generous with donations! We are so grateful to our Eastover staff who has gone above and beyond in so many ways this year.
- IV. Treasurer's Report Megan Preston
Cash ending is over \$24,000 to date; we are looking to spend a bit more on some fun spring events while still being responsible and ready for fall. Financial documents will be shared in the near future.
- V. Principal's Report Harleen Singh/Faculty
 - A. Thank you for your efforts with staff appreciation – staff has enjoyed all of the surprises so far this week!
 - B. It's walk/bike to school this week, although the weather hasn't really cooperated!
 - C. Teachers have staff development Thursday afternoon – will be working on goal setting
 - D. Friday is a half day; we are also debuting our Talent Show! It turned out really nicely and we are excited to share it with our community
 - E. Next Tuesday we will be sending out our virtual Kindergarten orientation
 - F. Field trips are opening up to the Nature Center and Bowers Farm – these will be coming up in the next couple of weeks
 - G. End of year obviously looks a little different – we are working on some year-end ideas and will share those soon
 - H. Looking ahead to next year we are looking to revamp our "Get Wellness" program and will be looking for parent support; we will also be working on our school improvement plan and will need family involvement there too.
- VI. BHS Catchment Areas Presentation Paul Willis, Plante Moran; Rob Durecka,

BHS

Mr. Durecka has served as principal of Andover and also West Hills before retiring at the end of last year. Paul Wills shared a powerpoint presentation on the process.

A. Additional notes not in PowerPoint:

1. Ideal size for elementary school is to balance enrollment to around 550 students for each K-5 school; catchment areas will be reviewed every 3-5 years; Goal for MS would be to balance enrollment to around 600 students at each school
2. For comparison's sake, in the 1950s, BHS had over 10000 students; today it's around 5500.
3. Mr. Durecka has shared a link with the participants – this is a way for you to submit your concerns, which is really important to the district.

B. Q & A:

1. Q: what do you see as the process going forward from here?
A: We have about 30 people who have volunteered (community members, existing families from across the district) to be part of a focus group on May 10. We will use our guiding principles when we look at options. A recommendation will be made to the board in Fall 2021 for implementation in Fall 2023.
2. Q: What trends are we seeing with current home sales in the district?
A: Home sales / trends today do not support another several hundred school age students moving into the district in the near future.
3. Q: Are there any plans to keep the existing feeder patterns from elementary to middle school?
A: Yes, the plan is to keep them the same.
4. Q: How do you see the stability (or instability) of reviewing the catchment areas every 3-5 years?
A: The plan isn't to *adjust* the catchment areas every 3-5 years, but to look at other considerations like inter-district school of choice, and whether it's a high or low impact decision/change.

VII. 3rd-4th Grade Transition to EHMS

Jason Rubel, Principal & Kim Costis, PTO
President

- A. This incoming group of 4th graders will also be the first 6th grade class at the new middle school!
- B. Introduction from Mr. Rubel: he has spent 20 years in the district; 10 at Andover, and 10 as principal of East Hills. Introduction from Ms. Konzen: she has spent 23 years in education, 16 of those at East Hills (both teaching and in administration)
- C. We are really one community on two different campuses.
- D. Within the month, East Hills will be visiting with the Eastover 3rd graders (and also the BV students)
- E. August 25, 2021 will be a special registration day where the kids can get in and explore the building; we are excited to interact more and more with our families.
- F. EH has a separate section of the building that is dedicated to 4th and 5th grades. This section operates as an elementary setting, with the students spending all day with one classroom teacher. Their teacher also walks them to and from specials. Several of the specials teachers also teach at Eastover and will be familiar to the incoming 4th graders.
- G. Their day looks very similar to the elementary day, with a morning recess, and an afternoon classroom recess. Lunch is a little different right now, but getting to eat in the cafeteria is a highlight for students. Another highlight is having their own locker.
- H. EH also tries to build in mentoring opportunities for 8th graders to work with 4th graders.
- I. In general, 4/5th grades at EH is an extension of the elementary experience, but we also spend time building pride in East Hills.
- J. Mr. Southward will be the counselor for the incoming 4th graders, and he will be their counselor the whole time they are at EH.

- K. Kim Costis (East Hills PTO President) spoke briefly. In terms of the PTO, EH tries to align with Eastover in coordinating events (ex – Staff appreciation week, movie nights, pancake dash); communication comes weekly from Mr. Rubel, and also the East Hills PTO Facebook page.
- L. Q & A period:
 Q: IS it likely that the incoming 4th graders won't be able to be in the building before starting school in the fall?
 A: We are anticipating that on August 25 the building will be completely open for students to come in and walk around, check out their lockers and walk around the building (provided COVID numbers support this); Move-up day looks to be virtual this year. In addition, the first day of school is a half day, which is really spent getting to know the building, including the lunch room. The PTO will make sure that information about these events is communicated to families as decisions are made.
 Q: What is the role of Mr. Southward as counselor for the 4th graders?
 A: It's not very common to have a counselor in elementary school; at EH, counselors try to get to know students one-on-one, and are available to support classroom teachers and students. They also make sure students are getting the right support in the classroom, and help make sure the student feels valued and known.

VIII. New Business

Cyndi Smyly/PTO Board

- A. Eastover PTO Board Nominations/Elections (to begin at the end of this school year)
1. Megan Preston: incoming co-President (2-year term) – Cyndi motions; approved
 2. Katie Gardner: co-Treasurer (1 year term) – Cyndi motions, Meg seconds; approved
 3. Charma Acheson: Recording Secretary (2-year term) – Cyndi motions, Kathy seconds; approved
 4. Margie Turowski: Corresponding Secretary (2-year term) – Cyndi motions, Megan seconds; approved
 5. We are still looking for an incoming Treasurer (2-year term); if anyone is interested, please let Cyndi know.
- B. Teacher Appreciation Week Update: "In every season, YEAR the best staff!" is the theme. So far we've had Fall and Winter; Spring is set up for tomorrow, and Summer will be on Thursday. One more surprise will be provided on Friday (which is also a half day).
- C. Penny Wars/Penny Parties: We started this a few years ago, and it was so much fun! We tabled this last year (for obvious reasons) but wanted to bring it back up again this year. One idea we have is to use the money that is brought in to fund class parties at the end of the year (or popsicles... something fun for students). We are considering holding this the last week of May. We need to brainstorm ways to make this Covid-conscious (limiting touchpoints, etc.). If you're interested in helping out with this, please reach out to Cyndi. We need to think of a fun ultimate prize (tape Mrs. Singh to the wall, something with Mr. Watson perhaps).
- D. Eastover Barn Bash: We are not having an extravaganza this year. We have signed up to host a Barn day at the farm on June 19. We can provide some extra programming (arts and crafts; ice cream truck) from 10-4 that day. If you're interested in helping with the planning of this day, please let Cyndi know.

IX. Committee Updates

Cyndi Smyly/Committee Chairs

- A. Yearbook (Michelle Callahan): The yearbook is coming along, but it's challenging getting the virtual students' pictures. We've sold 83 yearbooks so far (our goal is 150). May 15 is the deadline to get everyone's photo – so please spread the word!
- B. Talent & Art Show: The students will watch the premier of the talent show Friday during school, and then the link will be shared with our community that evening. A big "thank you" to Michele & Sarah Linn and Jenn Friedman for organizing this project!
- C. Playground Update (Embankment Slide Removal/Refund): The whole thing is coming out. We will receive a refund check in the amount of \$4,000, which will go back in our playground fund. We don't have a date for when the slide will be removed. Kathy Halonen will keep us updated.

- D. Restaurant Nights: Detroit Taco Company, Monday, 5/10, All Day; 20% of total sales will be kicked back to Eastover for this fundraiser!
- E. 2021/22 Committees: Cyndi will be distributing a list of committees in the near future and we need lots of help for next year! Please consider helping out or chairing a committee!

X. Announcements

Kathy Halonen

- A. May Theme: Be A-MAY-zing! Share a picture of your student being creative for a chance to win a \$10 Amazon gift card! (This is the last theme and drawing of the school year.)
- B. PTOC Announcements Meg Spence
 - 1. Multicultural Celebration, May 27th @ BHHS, 5:30pm; this is a free event, and food will be served in a safe manner (wrapped and ready to be consumed at home).
 - 2. BHS Family Connections, May 6th @ 7:30pm via Zoom, RSVP at bloomfield.org; this is an opportunity for families to meet one another and learn more about the district.
- C. Sign up for PTO Communications
 - 1. E-Blasts: Register at eastoverpto.org
 - 2. Facebook Group: Eastover Eagles PTO

XI. Adjournment

Cyndi Smyly

Meeting adjourned at 8:50

Upcoming dates and events:

5/7 - Half Day of School

5/31 - NO SCHOOL

5/13 - NO SCHOOL

6/18 - Last Day of School - Half Day

5/28 - Half Day of School

6/19 - Eastover Barn Bash @ Bowers Farm

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