

East Hills Parent Association

Meeting Minutes

President, Debra Suleiman, called the September 5, 2018 meeting of the East Hills Parent Association (EHPA) to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was held in the Parents' Center. Twenty-six people were in attendance at the meeting including 3 executive board members, 10 staff members, and 13 additional parents.

Debra introduced the new and returning executive board members for the 2018-2019 school year:

President - Debra Suleiman

Vice President - Lily Gaydos

Treasurer - Daria Hill (unable to attend)

Secretary - Alison Piripavel

Membership/Charger Newsletter - Deb Yocum (unable to attend)

Principal's Report: Mr. Horvath

- Welcome Back! Staff introductions:
 - Assistants Principals, Mrs. Braun and Mr. Tannous
 - Guidance Counselors - Mr. Leon (8th Grade), Mrs. Cortez (7th grade, in for Mrs. Limpar), Mrs. Morgan (6th grade), Mrs. Schwartz (all grades)
 - School Resource Officer - Officer Alestas
 - National Jr. Honors Society Advisor, Gifted Teacher - Mrs. McDonald
 - Intern - Angela Merrill
- School year is off to a great start! 3 hour delay for 6th graders is very helpful for easing the students into middle school (lockers, team/teacher introductions, building tours, reading schedules)
- 6th and 8th grade schedule structures swapped this year. 8th graders have 1st lunch, 6th graders have 2nd lunch
- Sorry for heat in the building. AC units struggling, no AC in gyms.
- Starting Thursday, 9/13 - 1st Activity Period cycle begins. Day 1 and 4 - 30 minutes activity period at the end of day, other periods slightly shortened. (Day 1 - HR for Portfolio prep and student-led conference work / Day 4 - Building activity/club or stay in HR)
- Thursday, September 6th, 6:30-8:30pm Open House. Report straight to child's designated room listed on paper sent home. No general meeting to begin the night. Announcements are made to get started. Mr. Horvath will give information, followed by Kim Harper giving the district message. Lots of information handouts in the Main Lobby. Parents can visit encore classes and Book Fair after core academic teachers.
- Thursday, 9/6 - Charger Challenge Walk-a-thon Assemblies
- Book Fair - Begins Open House night 9/6, students visit during the school days Friday 9/7-Wednesday, 9/12
- Friday, 9/14 - Charger Pride Brunch
- Wed., 9/19 - Schools Closed for Yom Kippur
- Wed., 9/26 - 11:35 Dismissal, Teacher In-Service Day
- Wed., 9/26 - Lockdown Drill
- Thurs., 9/27 - Charger Challenge Walk-a-Thon (Rain Date - Friday, 9/28)
- Weekly and Daily News Updates on Twitter and Charger Channel News (YouTube)
- BASD App - Please download as it provides updates, reminders, and emergency info from the district and each school chosen by the user. Mr. Horvath has been posting everyday, but will use it more sparingly as the year goes on so that the messages don't lose their importance. It will be the "first line of defense" vs. the one-call system. Dr. Roy is referring to it as "The Hub" of all info.
 - Question: Why can't we get into eSchoolPlus App? Answer: Will look into it, think it's being worked on.
- Registration Gateway - Opens today, 9/5 on App and BASD website. Replaces parents having to fill out hardcopy forms every year. Please go on to fill out electronic forms.

- Summer Construction Update: Everything has been completed - floors tiled, new LED lighting in hallways, carpets in library, office, music rooms
- Giant A+ and ShopRite Rewards - Please register for these school programs. Money received goes into student activities account/Charger awards. Last year's earnings ~\$4,500
- EHTC Musical Tryouts - 9/11-9/12
- Chromebooks distributed to each student, used and carried with them all day.

Mrs. McDonald

- National Junior Honors Society inducted 68 new members last spring.
- 7th graders who have a 3.75 GPA in January (after 2nd marking period) qualify academically and can apply to become a member of NJHS. Induction ceremony will be in March 2019.
- Last year, members participated in service projects and collected 158 blankets, 200+ socks for LV business group, collected donations for Puerto Rico families, were members of Christkindelmart's Green (clean) Team, collected almost enough plastic bags for the recycle project to earn a bench. They also volunteered their time as tour guides for 50th anniversary celebration and 6th grade parent night and hosted a school dance.
- Mr. Horvath added that students can also earn the Lamp of Learning award in 8th grade by earning straight A's in all subjects through 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Mrs. Braun

- Provided a copy of instructions for Google Chrome sign in
- Assessment schedule:
 - SRI (reading) going on now, then again mid-year and end of year.
 - New IXL diagnostic tests (math, in place of SMI) will soon be taken, and can take anywhere between 2-4 days to complete.
 - PSSA - ELA, Math, and Science (8th grade only) - April
- Go Guardian - East Hills is pilot school using this tool so teachers can observe what student's are doing on their Chromebooks
- After school programs will begin in October
- Digital Signage - 1st one up in main lobby area, 4 more being ordered (2 for cafeteria, 1 in upstairs guidance area, 1 in auditorium hallway). Thanks to EHPA for funding.
- NEW! - BASD TV on RCN channel 67 and Service Electric channel 165 - highlights and promotes what's happening in the BASD
- Guidance Counselors all spoke and encouraged parents to call or email with any questions and concerns. They all get to know all the kids in each of their grade levels and help to make school and enjoyable experience.

Mr. Tannous

- This school year's theme "MAKE EVERY PERSON MATTER" (Last year: Make Every Minute Matter)
 - "Every Person Matters in our East Hills Family. In Everything you think, say, and do... Each and every minute, no matter what, we all matter. Together we love to learn and learn to love....Make every person matter!"
- Code of Conduct changed to Framework of Citizenship
- Every Monday and Friday Mr. Tannous shares a short story or quote during announcements.
- Trauma informed practices - implementing TAB (Take a Break) area in each classroom. Students are encouraged to take a break if needed up to 5 minutes - self-redirect. Whole district initiative
- Charger Pride expectations remain the same. Sometime this year Charger Dollars will be able to be scanned electronically
- Garden Initiative - 3 gardens around East Hills - goal is to use them to grow together as a school, not a specific club. Right now, band and football team working together to clean them up.

- Parent drop off/pick up procedures. Unless students have a special medical reason or are bringing/taking home a large school project, parents are not allowed to drive down into the parking lot or bus lanes. Drop off and pick up can only occur on Chester Avenue.
- Cell phone policy - no phones in class - all grades
- Amazing Attendance - Recognition to individuals, homerooms, and teams for perfect or small amount of absences.

President's Report: Debra Suleiman

- A motion to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes was made and seconded. All were in favor. A copy of the minutes were provided at the meeting and are also posted on East Hill's website.
- Reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2018-19 Budget. A motion to approve was made and seconded. All were in favor.
- Volunteers will be needed for American Education Week (October 9-12th). Deb Yocum will be in touch for organizing these days.

Vice President's Report: Lily Gaydos

- Discussed the Charger Challenge Walk-a-thon Fundraiser details. Students will come home with information and envelopes by Friday. New this year is the Paypal option for donations. Envelopes must be returned even if they are empty.

Committee Reports:

Book Fair - Teri Feldman/Brie Chambers

- Still looking for volunteers during Book Fair next Monday, 9/10 - Wed, 9/12. SignUp Genius was emailed out.

Hospitality - Lisa Kemp

- In need for volunteers all year for snacks and baked goods. Sign up sheets were provided for dances, 8th grade academic awards, and teacher/staff lunch.

PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) - Wendy Simpson

- First meeting of the year has not occurred yet. Discussed the BASD Proud Parents group and handed out cards with contact information. www.basdproudparents.org, info@basdproudparents.org, Twitter: @basdproudparent

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Open Discussion - None - Everything covered during regular meeting.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 9:30a.m. in the Parent Center.

Adjournment:

Debra Suleiman adjourned the meeting at 11:21a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Alison Piripavel