

LANSING EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Wednesday December 10, 2008  
Eastern High School, Eleanor A. Doersam Social Room

Members Present: Lou Hekhuis – Chairman, Stefanie Dummer-Wolter – acting recorder, Eleanor Doersam, Jerry King, Virgil Langworthy, Jim Sinadinos, Mark Hahn, George Scofes, Ron Morgan, Dave Cushion. Guests – David Panici

L. Hekhuis introduced David Panici who is the new EHS Athletic Director. His assistant is Ashley Murray who has a Masters in Sport Administration. They have moved their offices back into the school and are in the building all day. Sport practices start around 4pm so that athletes can attend study hall. The students have to turn in eligibility papers to Panici in order to play. His phone numbers are 775-4255 at the school and his cell phone number is 410-8178. His office is in room 206. His main focus is to restore Quaker Pride in athletics. He is trying to get a pep band at the basketball games and a student section. He is offering students \$20 passes for the season. He will be looking to the alumni to act as team leaders for fundraising outings such as golf outings. He reported that Tommy Boyd has been hired as a permanent substitute for Eastern and starts Monday. Tommy is working on getting his teaching certificate.

E. Doersam reported that the baseball coach Al Grey invited all to a breakfast Saturday to support the baseball team at Robin Hill from 8:30-9:30.

E. Doersam also reported that the nominations for the athletic hall of fame are due Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

S. Dummer-Wolter reported that Lee had talked to Mike Ritcher about transfer the alumni data and that it would probably be done by the next meeting. She also asked when the newsletter should be printed and the group decided that it would be best to deliver it quarterly. However, the group didn't set a start date.

S. Dummer-Wolter also reported that the Fund Advisory Committee would be meeting Thursday and the members were Cindy Melock, Lou Hekhuis, Elle Doersam, Jerome Fines, Renie Araoz, Ella Dickson and Stefanie Dummer-Wolter.

L. Hekhuis introduced the proposal from Carl Word for the Honor Guard and Honor Roll. The draft was the work of 30 students who were working with Word. There was no mention of the Quaker Corp program or the virtual intern program. The conversation then turned to other ideas that might help the struggling freshmen. R. Morgan suggested talking with the MSU College of Education. M Hahn reported on an article from Newsweek about a school in Washington DC. J. Sinadinos asked about using the Junior Achievement program. G. Scofes suggested business owners coming to talk to the students. E. Doersam commented that there is a new breed of student in the schools and that we need to listen to them to figure out how to help them succeed. M. Hahn talked about that in England there is an

Entrepreneurship Week and all students set up a saving account. V. Langsworthy mentioned that the Board of Water and Light is starting an intern program.

At the end of the meeting D. Kanga stopped by and told us that she was taking a new position with the State of Michigan and would no longer be Eastern's Parent Coordinator. She mentioned that the whole school seems to be overwhelmed. They are trying to do good work. She mentioned that 'traditional' methods are not working in the school. Teachers and administrators need to work 'out-side of the box'. 50% of the students are not making it. When asked if she felt the school had loud halls or quite, she commented that to her the halls were quite and the students in the hall way weren't the problem, it was the students who didn't even come into the school that were the problem. She mentioned that Eastern has the highest failure rate, suspension and absences in the district. She had just come from the SIT meeting where they mentioned that they wouldn't make AYP because they don't have enough 9th graders left as seniors for the testing. There were only 20 members of SIT and everyone seems apathetic.

When E. Doersam asked if she would be willing to be part of the Alumni Association, she said that she would be interested.

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Dummer-Wolter,  
Acting recorder