

Eastern High School Alumni Association
Report of Meeting: December 16, 2014, 4:00 PM
Eastern High School Social Room
Respectfully submitted: Lynne Martinez

Attending were: Lou Hekhuis, Eleanor Doersam, Jack Davis, Judy Williams, Mike Williams, David Cushion, Gil Northrup, Joan Nelson, Gary Wegenke, Cheryl Cushion, Carmela Olivett, Donna Pohl, Lynne Martinez

Lou began the meeting, noting that LEHS Principal Donna Pohl would be attending to discuss some things that the Alumni Association might do to help reform and improvement efforts at the School. She will be invited to speak whenever she arrives.

Lou has requested a meeting with LSD Superintendent Yvonne Caamal- Canul to discuss pending plans for a millage. He has not yet received a response. Jack Davis reported that School Board Officers met with the Superintendent on Dec 15 to discuss a millage. There was agreement among many that the NE Quadrant of Lansing will be important to passing a millage.

Donna joined the meeting. She thanked the Alumni for all they have done to support the school, and specifically the last grants that were made to support projects.

She reported that Jamie Gundum has been hired as SIG administrator. Rosa Killips has been hired as Community Outreach Coordinator. Cathy Harris is mental health specialist. 4 teachers from the EHS staff will serve as teaching coaches / mentors.

She presented a list of project where assistance is requested:

- A draft brochure outlining volunteer opportunities at the school and asked for assistance with all of the items listed
- The PTSA is planning a 5-K Run/Walk, hopefully a first annual, in the spring. They will be seeking participants and event volunteers. In response to a question, she reported that PTSA would use the money raised for a grant program much like the Alumni grants.
- Helping to purchase 4 more electronic pianos and a large table to hold them at a cost of (Joan Nelson stated that the Lansing Blues Society may have a full size piano available)

Donna reported that 120 EHS students, mostly 9th and 10th graders, signed a letter objecting to the longer day as punishment. They presented the letter to the Alternative Governing Board. Some have threatened to leave the school. Donna is seeking ideas on how to engage unmotivated students. It was suggested that she ask high and low-achievers what they want and what would make a difference for them.

Ms. Pohl noted that parents are engaging more at the school. Teacher conferences were well attended. Parent at joining her for monthly "Coffee with the Principal." Comments about teacher efforts and performance are complimentary.

The following meetings, events and dates were announced:

Alternative Governing Board - Jan. 14, 2015 at 5:30 in the Social Room

IB tour and Open House – Jan 14, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the school

Hall of Fame Dinner – Feb 27, 2014

Senior Awards – Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 8:00 AM at the school

Lou reported that he, Jack and Lynne met to discuss seeking estimates for a PR effort with the goal of informing the community about the good things that are happening and what the state rankings mean. They will report at the January meeting.

The Next Meeting of the Eastern HS Alumni Board will be on Thursday, January 8 at 4:00 p.m. at the EHS Social Room.