Eastern High School Alumni Association Report of Facilities Meeting, June 10, 2014, 4:00 PM Eastern High School Social Room

Attending were: Louis Hekhuis, Eleanor Doersam, Jeri Haber, Letha Collins, Cheryl Cushion, Jack Davis, David Cushion, Barbara Jones, Joan Nelson, Gil Northrup, Gretchen Cochran, David Cushion and Lynne Martinez
Respectfully submitted by: Lynne Martinez

Louis called the meeting to order and people introduced themselves.

Discussion of Gil Northrup Letter

Gil presented a draft Point of View letter that he plans to submit to the Lansing State Journal for publication. He noted that the letter exceeds the limit of 500 words and asked for help with editing, especially shortening the letter. There was general support for his sending the letter and discussion of possible co-signers. Gil will finalize the letter, attempt to get a co-signer and submit it as an individual, not as a member of the Alumni Association.

Discussion of Freedom of Information Act request to the School District for the architectural plans for Eastern High School

Jack reported that he has prepared and shared with a couple of others. Louie said that he had received the letter but that it did not open as text on his computer. Jack will send the letter to Lynne. She will print it and deliver it to Louis for his signature. Gil noted that he has looked for other possible sources for the architectural plans, and has not been able to find the architectural firm. He questioned whether Chrisman Corporation may have them. They were the contractor on the construction.

Other

There was substantial discussion of the status of Board of Education and Administration discussions of a facilities plan and plans for a millage request.

Some felt that the decisions about Eastern High School have already been made. There was discussion of a possible plan to expand Pattengill to be a 7 through 12 school and rename it Eastern High School.

There was discussion of the desirability of maintain EHS as an historically important structure, as a school or as something else.

There was consensus that there is no agreement in the Community about a bottom line or preferred alternative.

There was a general frustration with interested East Side residents and Eastern Alumni Association member are not being invited to participate in the current round of strategic planning discussion.

There was some discussion of a possible community forum about EHS and East Side school facilities. This will be considered further at another meeting.

It was noted that, If EHS does not meet Adequate Yearly Progress this year, determined by improvements in MEAP test results; it is required to be restructured or will be subject to state takeover.

It was announced that the School District will conduct a strategic planning retreat on Saturday, June14, 2014 beginning at 9:00 AM at the Crown Plaza hotel. Jack has been invited as one of 40 participants in the retreat. Several stated that they plan to attend.

It was agreed that the group will meet next on Tuesday, June 24 at 4:00 PM again at the EHS Social room.