

Eastern High School Alumni Association Board Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2015, 4:00 PM
Meeting Report

Attending were Louis Hekhuis, Jack Davis, Judy Williams, Guil Northrup, Letha Collins, Jack Davis, Lynne Martinez.

Lou reported that he, Eleanor Doersam and Lynne met with LSD Super intent Yvonne Caamal-Canul on October 7. Lou took the Statement from the Alumni Association and Eastside Neighborhood Organization. Yvonne acknowledged having received it.

There was discussion of why Yvonne and the Board of Education are anxious to complete the sale of Eastern to Sparrow before the millage vote. Yvonne noted that the state Office of School Reform is now part of the Department of Management and Budget and no longer located in the Department of Education. She is concerned that, at any time, the Office of School Reform could take over EHS – the program and the property. She is hopeful to avoid that happening. She noted that the sale of Eastern is a done deal and will be finalized before the end of the year. It is her feeling and the feeling of the Board that having the question settled and the sale complete before the Bond vote decreases the possibility that voters would not support the millage because they hope to preserve the EHS building.

There was discussion at the meeting of when the Lansing MEAP and ACT test results from 2014-2015 might be released. Yvonne said that the State has embargoed release of the scores. Lynne reported that she has been checking the MDE website and that there are no test results posted for 2014-15. It was agreed that Lynne will check with Ben Botwinski at the Board Meeting about when results might be available.

NOTE: Ben reported that the state has said they plan to release all test results to the public and media later in October or early November.

There was discussion of the likelihood of the Board of Education will support the recommendations of the Bond Committee. No one knows at this time. The recommendations from the Committee are on the Board agenda for discussion on October 8, 2015 and for Action on October 15. The meetings are open to the public and include time for public comment. People are encouraged to attend if possible.

Letha noted that there are two memorials for former students at Eastern that should be preserved and moved. The students are Kristen Gate and Gregory Austen.

Ellie noted that the school district needs to focus on academics, sports, arts and life schools to succeed in meeting the needs of students and the community.

Judy asked whether there is any research evidence of a Pathways Promise that succeeded in improving educational results. Lynne will do some checking.

The Next Meeting of the Alumni Association Board will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 and 4:00 pm in the Eastern Social Room.