

LANSING EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Eleanor Doersam Social Room

Members present: Lou Hekhuis-Chairman, Letha Collins-acting recorder, Dave, Cushion, Eleanor Doersam, Jack Gunther, Mark Hahn, Jerry King, Ron Morgan, Becky Palmer-Scott. Guests: Principal Sue Land, English Department Chairman Emily Turner

J. King noted that his name should be added to the members present at the July 20 meeting. R. Morgan moved, M. Hahn seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. In regards to the plaques mentioned in the minutes, E. Doesam also mentioned her concerns over the whereabouts of the Clement Sohn plaque originally hung in the hall entrance to the courtyard.

L. Hekhuis commented on the success of the Alumni Picnic. There were 130+ attendees. He thanked Tony Gladstone and his family for providing and servicing the beverages. The sale of bricks and a plaque amounted to over \$300.

The Lansing Historical Society will be having an Open House at EHS on Oct. 21, 7:00—8:30 pm. The group will meet in the Jon Young Auditorium with President Jon Stahl '64. E. Doersam will give a short history of EHS. All of the living former Principals will be there. After the short auditorium program, the group will then divide to be escorted by various Board members around the building. Weather permitting they will be shown the Courtyard. Jerry King, Eleanor Doersam, Jack Guenther, Becky Scott, and Lou Hekhuis said they would be there by 6:30 pm to set up a plan and locations to meet the divided group. Letha Collins indicated she would attend if still in town. Refreshments will be served in the Social Room. The cost of \$150 has been approved by the Board according to L. Hekhuis. Donna Pohl will take care of refreshments.

Principal Sue Land spoke at length and in much detail about the options and plan for Eastern's future because of the failure to meet the Annual Yearly Progress Assessment as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Law—2001. Eastern missed the assessment by .25%, because one member of the senior class failed to graduate. The mandate requires that 80% of the members of the junior class graduate. It was noted that had one more senior graduated, EHS would have passed the criterion. She also noted that EHS has improved its scores in the reading and math assessments and the number of juniors taking the tests has increased from 89% ('09) to 98% ('10). She emphasized that EHS is an improving school and at this point the Board of Education has no plans to close Eastern.

Of the four options to schools failing the assessment, the Board of Education chose the Transformational Model. Ms. Land explained each part of the model in detail. They include: 1) developing and increasing teacher and leader effectiveness; 2) comprehensive instructional reform; 3) increasing learning time and creating community-oriented schools; 4) providing operational flexibility and sustained support. Eastern must present its plan to implement this model to the Bd. of Ed./St. Of MI by mid-Oct., 2010. The new plan for improvement must start November, 2011.

Subjects discussed were topics such as: Ed 2020 program, Advanced Path for students behind in credits, continued offerings in AP and IB programs, improving the transition from

middle to senior high school, commitment to an oriented base school (ex. ESL already in place at EHS), increasing the instructional time. Members asked about parental input, extra classes for electives, i.e., choir and drama, budget cuts. They also expressed concern over the extra hours/school days/year with no electives that might influence parents into exercising their Schools of Choice state option. Using the concept of "Homeroom" was also addressed. Ms. Land will come to later meetings with further details on the progress of this model for improvement.

Becky Palmer-Scott presented her request for funds for the Learning Center, a project for tutoring at-risk students on a model presented to the Board by Dr. Lois Bader in June, 2010. After reviewing the items, instructional and physical environment necessary to get the room ready, the Board on a motion by R. Morgan, seconded by E. Doersam, unanimously recommended up to \$20,000 to carry out the application amount. Hopefully the Center would be ready January, 2011. It was noted that the Lansing Eastern High Alumni Fund Advisory Committee, at its meeting Oct. 6, must approve of the amount.

L. Hekhuis noted that the Classes of 1938 and 1945 had decided to donate their treasury funds for future reunions to the Courtyard Account. The Courtyard has been kept up through the efforts of Ms. Cathy Bohil and Ms. Debbie Reemsnyder. The Chairman sought approval from the Board to open an account at the Lansing Postal Community Credit Union for the Lansing Eastern High Alumni Fund. There would be two members' signatures needed for transfer of funds. R. Morgan moved, L. Collins seconded that the Board open this account for the above transfers at the Lansing Postal Credit Union. Withdrawals would need the signatures of the Chairman and the Recorder. (This date—Louis Hekhuis and Stefanie Wolter). The motion passed unanimously.

The Board also discussed the creation of the Jon Young-Russell Schneider Fine Arts Award. The funds already in the Jon Young and Russell Scheider accouts would be combined to create an award to encourage and promote the appreciation and imortance to fine arts in our society by supporting fine art projects at Lansing Eastern High School. The term "Fine Arts" would include all media. The selection process would be as follows: After applications are received and reviewed by the The Lansing Eastern High School Alumni Association Board of Directors, they would make their recommendations to the LEHS Alumni Funding Committee. It was suggested that the award be up to \$500 per year at this time. The members present, after a motion for acceptance of the above from E. Doersam, seconded by M. Hahn, voted unanimously for approval.

The next meeting will be Oct. 13, 2010 at 3 p.m. in the E. Doersam Social Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Letha Collins, acting recorder