



Eastover PTO Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 6:30pm

In attendance:

Christina Kozouz	Megan Mauri	Sally Walker	Angie Blowers
Katherine Kosco	Michelle Callahan	Meg Spence	Kathy Halonen
Jennifer Gerback	Rebecca Ealy	Theresa Barlow	Kelly Newell
Cyndi Smyly	John VanGemert	Kathryn Smith	Dianne Colby
Carey Crocker	Amanda Melymuka	Pat Watson	

- I. Call to Order/Introductions Meg Spence  
Meg called to order at 6:36pm
  
- II. Review December Meeting Minutes Andria Trumble  
Cyndi Smyly motioned to approve, seconded by Kathy Halonen
  
- III. Principal and Teacher Report Carey Crocker/Faculty
  - A. Mrs. Crocker reviewed the playground equipment installation; the equipment came with some scratches and things that needed to be fixed. The company has fixed some, with some more repairs to be made in the future. The installer has been responsive. The kids and families love the new equipment!
  - B. The Title I meeting was already held this year, but many documents are available on the school website at all times; feel free to give Mrs. Crocker feedback on any of these documents or see her with questions.
  
- IV. Committee Updates
  - A. Parents Night Out Meg Spence  
This year's PNO is being held at the Franklin Estate on February 8; this is a combined event for families and staff of Eastover and East Hills. Tickets are available now and the theme is "The Roaring 20s."
  - B. Science Fair Sally Walker  
The theme this year is "Animals;" The fair will be held on Tuesday, February 25, at East Hills. Information will be coming home soon, and signups will start soon as well. The Art Fair will also be part of the Science Fair again this year.
  - C. Talent Show Andria Trumble  
Tryouts March 11, rehearsal March 25; the show is April 1, 2020.
  - D. Pancake Dash Jessica Madison  
This event is being held on March 28, and is a combined event with East Hills this year; the event will still be held at Eastover. We are currently looking for sponsors. There are options to participate in a 5K, a one-mile fun run, or just come and eat pancakes! T-shirts will be sold for \$5 each.
  
- V. New Business Meg Spence
  - A. Grown-ups and Donuts: We are considering adding this new event this year; students would bring a grown-up (parent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, family friend) in the morning before school. This would be held over 3 mornings to accommodate everyone. Dates

being considered are February 19-21; March 4-6. The group felt February 19-21 would be best.

B. Penny wars: April 27-May 1 (tentative dates)

VI. Superintendent Introduction/Dialogue

Pat Watson

- A. Mr. Watson began by introducing himself; he's spent 26 years at West Bloomfield High School and is excited to be at Bloomfield Hills Schools.
- B. He plans to spend 30 minutes with each administrator and will shadow a student for a day in each school.
- C. Social media: twitter - BhsWatson
- D. He addressed the situation at the high school that happened before Christmas; mistakes were made but they are being corrected. An email communication went out earlier tonight.
- E. His 90-day plan is to meet community members and students, listening and learning.
- F. The community asked him these questions:
  - 1. Q: What is the toughest thing facing the district right now?  
A: It's getting a bond scheduled and passed. The elementary schools are literally falling apart and are so outdated.
  - 2. Q: What is the thing you want to do in the first 6 months?  
A: Listen and learn, and then work on the district's strategic plan.
  - 3. Q: What difficulties are you expecting as an outsider to the district?  
A: You don't know what you don't know; this is why I plan to shadow students and get to know the buildings.
  - 4. Q: Do you know if the district is looking at a developmental kindergarten program?  
A: Mrs. Crocker answered that she is putting a team together to investigate this, and Eastover may pilot this program in a few years.

VII. Bond Initiative Update

Meg Spence

- A. Meg shared the following summary of the Scope & Design Committee's work to date:
  - 1. The BHS building and grounds department conducted a study to determine the immediate needs of the middle and elementary schools, which totaled \$33M over the next 3 years.
  - 2. Instead of asking for a millage for this, which would simply bring our schools up to par with their current state (e.g., new water boilers, fix roofs, replace tiles, same 1960's buildings), the Board of Ed agreed to explore what it would look like to make our schools state of the art.
  - 3. Our buildings currently face several issues, including but not limited to:
    - Overcrowding
    - deteriorating structures
    - small cohorts that limit academic & athletic offerings
    - lack of up to date security
    - congested transportation
    - grade appropriateness
    - staff who travel among several buildings
    - inequitable opportunities
  - 4. A group of people, including district staff, BOE members, principals, school staff, parents, and community members without students in our schools across the district were selected to form the Scope and Design Committee.

5. They met for 2 months to discuss different options to restructure, redesign, and redistrict our middle and elementary schools.
  6. After several iterations, none of which seemed sufficient, the group gave its feedback and asked the Building and Grounds committee to go back to the drawing board. Six weeks later they came back with a new design that, for the first time, everyone agreed upon.
  7. The design was presented to the Board at their last meeting. They will have one more meeting on 1/16 to ask questions about the design and plan. The Building and Grounds committee will be charged with answering these questions by 1/27, at which time the board will vote on 2 things: should we move forward with this plan, and should this millage request go on a May ballot?
  8. In the meantime, a group of parent advocates will be meeting next week on 1/14 to discuss next steps. Several of these people are from the Scope and Design Committee, but this meeting and all future parent meetings are open to anyone who wants to join. The intent of this meeting is to plan and organize a strategy to get word out to the community. This meeting is not organized by the district, as district employees are not allowed to participate in this kind of work.
- B. Next, the plan the committee came up with was reviewed: 2 middle schools (North and South); East Hills would become an elementary school (K-5); Eastover would become a preschool; Conant remains the same; Lone Pine closes – those students would go to West Hills; Way remains the same; redistricting would take place but lines have not been drawn yet.
- C. These questions were raised about the plan:
1. In the recent past, Plante Moran provided forecasting information to our district that indicated school-aged populations were decreasing, when in fact they did just the opposite. The forecasting information we are using now is also from Plante Moran. How can our community trust that this data is accurate? Have we (the district) employed any other consulting company to conduct a similar study to ensure the results are the same? If not, why, and would it be possible to have this done?
  2. Aside from anecdotal information that each of us has from our own education, what does research show is the "best" or "right" number of students in an elementary school? In a middle school?
  3. Address the decision to sell Hickory Grove and Pine Lake.
  4. What is the suitability of EH and WH to be used as elementary schools? When will teachers and staff have input on this?
  5. What is the plan for the Fox Hills and Lone Pine facilities? Will they be retained for a "just in case" scenario? (e.g., mandatory preschool, influx of more elementary aged students)
  6. Can we confirm that this plan does NOT include downsizing of staff and positions will not be lost?
  7. What are the problems and how does this plan address them? What will be different about each school that we can highlight to the community?
  8. What is the timeline? People want to know if this will affect their family or not.
  9. Is there enough room at the high school?
  10. Can we have access to an updated tax increase per household chart?
  11. What are things that people DON'T like about the new high school? It's imperative to get insight about what could be improved this time around.
  12. What are the direct community benefits? Will there be programs at Lahser, Bowers, Nature Center, etc.?

13. What happens if the bond doesn't pass? Is there enough money in the sinking fund to get us by? To fulfill the \$33M in critical need?
14. Even if the bond passes, what happens to EO in the mean time?
15. Is it possible redistricting may occur BEFORE the plan is implemented and new schools are constructed?
16. Suggestion to tour new office buildings to get ideas on what new spaces could look like.
17. What will the preschool programs look like? Will they be competitive to neighboring towns?

D. Please note that the last school board meeting was recorded and can be found on our Facebook page (Eastover Eagles PTO) and website ([www.eastoverpto.org](http://www.eastoverpto.org)). The bond discussion starts at 1:33:00 (posted by Chris Decker). All future board meetings with regard to the bond initiative will be recorded and available to the public. In addition, there is a link on our Facebook page to the website that the board has started in order to provide more information to people (posted by Paul Kolin).

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| VIII. | Announcements/Open Comments<br>None brought forward | ALL        |
| IX.   | Adjournment<br>Adjourned at 8:26                    | Meg Spence |

Upcoming Dates/Events:

- 1/20/20 No school
- 1/24/20 Half day
- 1/27/20 GET Meeting 4pm
- 2/4/20 Next PTO Meeting 4:15pm**
- 2/8/20 Parents' Night Out
- 3/28/20 Pancake Dash

Have questions/comments/concerns/ideas/ or want to get involved?

Contact: Meg Spence- [megspence@gmail.com](mailto:megspence@gmail.com) and/or Andria Trumble - [andria.trumble@gmail.com](mailto:andria.trumble@gmail.com)