East Hills Parent Association
Meeting Minutes

President, Debra Suleiman, called the December 5, 2018 meeting of the East Hills Parent Association (EHPA) to order at 9:34 a.m. The meeting was held in the Parents' Center. Fourteen people were in attendance at the meeting including Superintendent, Dr. Roy, 3 principals, 3 executive board members, and 7 additional parents.

Mr. Horvath welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Dr. Roy.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Roy

- Shared the BASD's new marketing booklet which highlights the district's wide-range of academic offerings, extra-curricular activities, student and family services, and community partnerships.
  - 2 Main Audiences:
    1. Prospective Parents - Get booklet into the hands of:
       - Pre-K parents
       - Charter student parents currently in 5th and 8th grades about to enter middle and high school
       - Relocation families
       - Realtors
       - Major Employers (Ex: Lehigh University and St. Luke's employees whose children often attend private and charter schools)
    2. "Opinion Makers" - Community Civic Groups
  - Each individual school will have it's own letter to place in the back of the booklet appropriate to each neighborhood school locations
  - District is encouraging BASD families to distribute booklet to prospective families or direct them where to find them.
- Shared the draft of "Student Screen Time: a Statement by the Bethlehem Area School District" which illustrates and explains the Screen Time Quality Continuum. BASD wants to use technology effectively, while still maintaining a healthy balance of other learning methods.
- District is using "smart software" that adjusts to student levels of learning creating "differentiation" in each classroom. Reports give teachers immediate feedback and are detailed per each student. (Ex: IXL and Moby Max)
  - Parent Comment/Concern: Technology is great, but worried about students constantly collaborating around computers, rather than with each other. Is the social aspect being lost? Is there enough of a balance with other learning/teaching strategies and methods?
- Middle School Student Advisory Group meets next week and will discuss the current use of technology.
- Looking forward, tentative plan is to have all 8th, 9th, and 10th grades students to each have computers/Chrome books. However, still contemplating the "equity gaps" that may occur and if the ability to take home the devices would be an option.
- All BASD buildings are hard-wired with a great backbone network. Wishing for free WiFi across district.
- "Online Gym" - When first presented, it was given a "bad name" should be "independent study gym" in which students would set up a fitness plan and monitor their progress with technology such as a FitBit. Encourages life-long goal-setting skills. The class is just one option and traditional gym stays. This gym option would only be available to 11th and 12th graders to open up their schedules for more elective options in other areas of study.

Principal's Report: Mr. Horvath / Mrs. Braun

- Thursday, 12/6 - Picture Retake Day
- Thursday, 12/6 - FHS Winter Concert - 8th grade only
- Friday, 12/7, 6-8pm - School Dance sponsored by Reading Olympics (Snacks needed)
- Winter Concerts @ FHS - Tues, 12/18 (School Assemblies during the day) and Wed, 12/19 @ 7pm
- Friday, 12/14 - Toy Drive ends for Bethlehem Police Dept./St. Luke's
- Friday, 12/14 - Charger Pride Brunch @ 10am
- Tuesday, 12/17 - MP2 IPRs viewable on Home Access Center
- Friday, 12/21 - Winter Pep-Rally/Basketball Game & Charger Dollar Drawing
- Winter Break - Monday, 12/24 - Wednesday, 1/2/19, Schools Reopen Thursday, 1/3
- TVs are all up and running great around the school. Kids are enjoying seeing the pictures on them
- Students have the option each day to do a daily mood check on PearDeck - 4 faces to choose from to reflect how they feel. Allows teachers and counselors to check in on students.

President's Report: Debra Suleiman

- Reviewed the December Treasurer's Report, current balance $19,375.83. A motion to approve was made and seconded, all were in favor.
- A motion to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes was made and seconded, all were in favor. A copy of the minutes was provided at the meeting.

Committee Reports:

PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) - Wendy Simpson

- "Kindness is Magic" Shoe Drive Rep was in attendance, over 6,000 pairs were donated district-wide, but a few thousand were damaged and forwarded to other donation centers.
- BASD is partnering with this charity to reduce the district-wide $150,000+ lunch debt
- Thomas Jefferson Elementary was a managable building to begin with…had $4,700 debt to start and $3,100 was paid off.
- What is the district doing to prevent continuing accruing debt? (No answer)
    - Possible issues:
        - Free and Reduced Lunch applicants must reapply every school year and some families might not be doing this
        - Existing lunch accounts are not being maintained and/or reimbursed
        - District cannot deny children food or force parents to fill out necessary forms.
- Suggestion from parent to present to district: Dormant lunch accounts that have balances could donated the remaining funds to the pay off debt. Also, when setting up your own child's account, have an option for parents to make a donation.
- BASD would most likely qualify for district-wide free and reduced lunch, but do not want to go down that road yet. Perception may be negative and provides no accountability.
- Next meeting in February

Old Business - None

New Business - New EHPA Board Positions will need to be filled next year - President, Secretary, Hospitality, and Book Fair. Elections will be in April.

Open Discussion - None

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 9:30 am in the Parent Center. All are welcome.

Adjournment:
Debra Suleiman adjourned the meeting at 11:18 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Alison Piripavel