

East Hills Middle School

Parent Association Meeting

October 2, 2024

Call to Order & Introduction of Members:

- Present: Kelly Stewart, Monica Maldonado, Lori Cowell, Jocelyn Vlach, Quanesha Johnson, Clayton Matterson, Kelly Ann Zapata, several online attendees
- Call to Order: President Kelly Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:38am

Principals Report:

- Mr. Tannous joined us and went over several items with everyone.
 - He thanked all the volunteers that helped with the book fair.
 - Reminder that school is closed on Thursday, October 3rd for Rosh Hashanah.
 - American Education Week is Monday, October 7 – Friday, October 11th. 6th Grade visits will be held on Monday. 7th Grade visits on Tuesday. 8th Grade visits on Wednesday. No visits on Thursday. Grandparents can visit on Friday. There is a schedule of times you can visit in the Charger Connection newsletter, and one should also have been sent home with your student. You do not need to sign up and you do not need your clearances on file as teachers will always be present throughout your visit. Please bring your ID along with you when you come to visit.
 - Picture Day will be Thursday, October 10th. A form will be sent home with your child to place orders.
 - Spirit Week will be held Monday, October 14th through Friday, October 18th. A pep rally will be held on Wednesday, October 16th to get ready for the football game that evening. East Hills will be facing Nitschmann Middle School at 7:30 pm at the BASD stadium at Liberty High School.
 - There will be an 11:30 early dismissal on Thursday, October 17th for teacher in -service.
 - Charger Challenge will be held on October 17th. This is the largest fundraiser for the school and more information will be coming home shortly about this. 6th Grade will walk from 9:25- 10:10. 7th Grade will walk from 10:20-11:05. 8th Grade will walk from 8:30-9:15.

- The next school dance will be held on Friday, October 18th from 3:05-5:05 and is sponsored by the NJHS. The dance times were moved to after school this year due to a suggestion from the Leader in Me team as to increase teacher participation. Many teachers live a distance from the school and/or have children with events at night. This change in time will allow for more to attend and get to hang with their students in a non-teaching environment.
- The East Hills band will be participating in several Halloween parades this year. The Coplay parade is held on October 15th at 7:00 pm. The Nazareth parade will be on October 19th at 1:00 pm. The Bethlehem parade is at 2:00 pm on October 27th.
- The Freedom vs Liberty football game will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, October 26th.
- Mr. Tannous wanted to commend this school for how much families help each other out. More so than any other school he has ever worked in. So often a student will send money for their field trip and also include money for kids in need to pay for their field trips. He mentioned several examples like that and how wonderful it is to see.

President/VP/Treasurer/Committee Reports:

- President's Report –
 - The Charger Challenge will be held on October 17th. This is the only fundraiser that will be held this year. The goal is to raise money for the students to take field trips. We will be using Pledge Star for donations this year. Students will be walking in the field instead of the parking lot due to Freedom dismissal. A volunteer coordinator is needed that can be there the entire morning to assist the volunteers. Also, this person would be responsible for creating a sign-up genius for that day and keeping in touch with the administration to see what else is needed from the Parent Association. Please reach out to Kelly Stewart if you are interested. Monica will be responsible for check and cash accounting as well as prize distribution. Mrs. Braun has agreed to sleep on the roof if the school can raise over \$25,000. Some ideas were suggested of fun ways to let the kids know about this goal and reward.
 - The next school dance will be held October 18th from 3:05-5:05 and is hosted by the National Junior Honor Society. A request will be made to only offer peanut free snacks at dances due to airborne peanut allergies.
 - Over \$3500 of books were sold at the book fair. Credits are earned from these sales that allow the librarian to purchase books for the school.
- Vice President's Report – no updates
- Secretary's Report – no updates
- Treasurer Report – Monica has paid Scholastic and made a small deposit from the book fair.

- Committee Reports –
 - Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)– Mary Fiorini attended the PAC meeting on behalf of East Hills. The district has a strong focus on attendance this year as chronic absenteeism is very high. They are monitoring the reasons for this. They are also now counting absences in hours, instead of days. The district is looking to improve grade level achievement for reading and math and this was discussed. The Proud Parents organization had a member there to discuss how their organization is focused on the underfunding of the district from state funding. Currently, there is \$3,000 from each child in the district that is missing in funding. They are going to provide information at the next meeting of ways parents can get involved (making phone calls, etc.) to help with this. Future topics that will be discussed at meeting this year were discussed and include grade level reading and math achievements, Leader in Me restorative practices, BASD capital plans, special education, cell phones in schools and student attendance.

New Business:

- Open Positions – The Parent Association is currently looking for someone to help with the following positions. Please reach out for more information or if you are interested in helping.
 - Book Fair – A book fair chairperson is still needed for the next book fair, which will be held in March.
 - Charger Challenge – Looking for the volunteer coordinator mentioned above.
 - Teacher Appreciation – Help arrange lunches and help to make Teacher Appreciation Week special for the teachers.

Open Discussion:

- Kelly Ann Zapata will be setting up fundraising nights at Chipotle and MOD Pizza. Also, we would like to host an East Hills night at Sky Zone like we have done at Freefall in the past.
- A reminder that School Café has an app that you can download on your phone to add money to your student's account, view purchase history, add purchase restrictions, and many more features.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am

Next Meeting is November 13th at 9:30am.