

## **EPS PA General Meeting September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Claudia Bayer – PA President**

Claudia Bayer, current PA President opened the first PA Meeting of the new school year by welcoming all parents and thanking them for coming. Claudia then talked about volunteering at EPS and the roles that parents can play in the PA. There is the PA Executive committee that supports all parents and the Parent reps that support parents at a grade specific level. The PA executive roles include the President (Claudia Bayer), the Volunteer Coordinator (Heather Burkey), the Treasurer (Deepika Sadahiro), the Secretary (Patti Sauntry), the Hospitality Committee (Cindy Goetzmann, Shairose Gulamani, Xixi Shakes) and the Staff/Faculty Appreciation Committee (Jenny Heuberger, Ellen Schneider). The list of class reps per grade level can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events include:

- The Fall Premiere on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6PM
- Aiden Key Parent Night on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7PM
- Back to School Night on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM
- Grade Level Parent meetings, please refer to the EPS Calendar for your specific meetings

### **Head of School**

Claudia introduced Dr. Macaluso, who welcomed parents and said that the students seem to love the new building and that the nap pods are busy! Dr. Macaluso then opened the floor to questions.

A parent asked if Back to School nights could be held in other trimesters. Dr. Macaluso said there would be Fall and Spring Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences which would then be their chance to meet those teachers. In the winter trimester there will be written comments mid-trimester instead of conferences. If there is a teacher you would like to meet with at any time, you are encouraged to set up a meeting with them.

A parent asked about next steps for the school now that the building is done. Dr. Macaluso said that this year the focus is on completing the re-accreditation process which in turn will help staff and faculty focus in on programming and new classes.

A parent asked what the annex is being used for this year. It is being used for parent meetings and senior project space. There is a possibility that a new maker space could be built at the annex as technology space needs continue to grow. The annex is leased for another 2-4 years and signing a new lease after that will depend on need and price.

A parent asked how the school calendar will change after this year. Dr. Macaluso would like to continue the usual tradition of starting school the Wednesday after Labor Day but it will probably continue later into June. The 2019-2020 calendar has not been set yet.

A parent asked if later start times for the high school are under consideration. It is not a consideration at this time, in fact the school day is now 15 minutes longer.

A parent asked whether the school might consider moving to a semester system. Dr. Macaluso said that it comes down to choice for students, and the trimester system allows for more choice in classes. It also lines up well with the sports calendar.

A parent asked if the school will offer summer programs next year. Dr. Macaluso said it is under consideration but innovative programming is a must and right now she is not seeing offerings that might meet that bar. The school does not want to offer the same types of programs that most other schools or camps offer.

### **Director of Athletics**

Claudia introduced our new Athletics Director Kim Eng (Office: TMAC 104) and our new Assistant Athletic Director Angie Sharp (Office: Mezzanine Level overlooking the gym). Kim talked about great energy around sports at EPS. What they are trying to emphasize this year is making a commitment to the teams they join. They are working with Paul Hagen to organize homecoming and tailgates. Parent support at games is very much encouraged.

A parent asked about support for kids with injuries. Ms. Eng told the group that we have a fabulous Trainer – Tammy Marton who works with kids with injuries and advises them as to whether they should play or not. She will also work with the athlete’s physician if necessary. She attends as many sporting events as she can and helps tape up athletes before practices or games if they require it. She will also teach them how to tape up themselves.

A parent wanted more information on TeamSnap about when pick-up is after games. Ms. Sharp explained that with some sports such as volleyball, it is hard to know exactly when a match will end, but that they are encouraging athletes to contact their parents when they are on their way back to school after a game.

A parent asked as to whether their athlete could play Select teams as well as on their EPS team. Ms. Eng said that in high school a JV player can play Select as well as an EPS team. On Varsity teams, they can play Select or Club as long as it does not interfere with their EPS practices or games. This includes not being allowed to leave early from an EPS practice to make a Select or Club practice. The rules are even more relaxed for middle school athletes, but Ms. Eng said that the commitment level to the team should be a consideration as to whether they can play on both teams.

### **Director of Admissions and Enrollment Management**

Claudia introduced our new Director of Admissions Cheryl Miller. Ms. Miller has worked in admissions now for 14 years, most recently at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma. Enrollment management includes financial aid, admissions and retention of students.

A parent asked what standardized admissions test EPS will accept from applicants. EPS prefers the SSAT as it has become the preferred test in our market here. It is only one component in the admissions process, and they will continue to look at the whole child and not just test scores.

A parent asked about enrollment levels for next year. It will be somewhere between 75 and 85 students total for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 36 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 18 new students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

The acceptance rates for the school are approximately 2/3 of students admitted ultimately enroll at the school, and about ¼ of students who apply are admitted.

### **Closing Annoucement**

Claudia thanked everyone for coming and asked Ms. Eng and Ms. Sharp to stick around after the meeting to answer more individual questions. She also presented Heather Burkey with a bouquet of flowers as a big thank you for her years serving as the EPS PA President. Thanks Heather!

The meeting adjourned at 9:10AM.