

**EPS PA General Meeting
December 10th, 2019**

Claudia Bayer -PA President

Claudia opened the meeting by welcoming a large group of parents attending the meeting. Claudia gave an update as to what the Parent Association is up to, such as the Fall Harvest Parent Social event that was attended by over 300 parents and faculty in September, the Fall Harvest Bounty Event for staff and faculty in November, and various grade level coffee and socials being organized by parent reps. She thanked the parents from Grades 7, 8 and 10 for supplying the wonderful baked goods, treats and fruit to make the Fall Bounty event a success.

Upcoming events include December Wellness Bags for staff and faculty. The items for this event have been provided for by the 5th, 6th and 9th grade families. In January the Winter Celebration Social event for parents and faculty will be held. The faculty staff appreciation committee will hold events in February (Valentine Extravaganza) and in March (coffee cart) for the faculty/staff.

Claudia then went on to describe the ways that parents can get involved at EPS, such as the Staff/Faculty Appreciation Events, Hospitality Events (Fall Harvest, Winter Celebration) or as a class rep for your child's grade. Class Reps help organize grade level social events throughout the school year. There are also opportunities to participate in theatre events and in athletics as team parents. The Sports Booster is still looking for team parents for the following teams: 5/6 Boys Basketball (Blue), 7/8 Girls Basketball and JV Boys Basketball. Coming out to cheer on our teams is also a great way to get involved at EPS!

Paul Hagen – Director of Student Well-Being

Paul introduced his team:

- Stephanie Hinson – School Nurse, absent today (manages student physical health, medical/vaccination records)
- Laura Boismenu – Counselor, new to the school this year
- Michelle Lorne – Counselor (both counselors are responsible for the Peer Mentor Program, which introduces the wellness tools curriculum to students at an age appropriate level, as well as the suicide prevention program. They also provide counseling to students as needed)
- Bess McKinney – Director of Equity, Inclusion and Compassionate Leadership (instills in students a sense of belonging at the school. MLK Day Programs this year will include Erin Jones as a guest speaker and 21 guests are coming to the school that day to run various workshops throughout the day)
- Kim Richards – Administrative Assistant (provides logistical support for all members of the well-being team)
- David Kelly-Hedrick – Experiential Education Director (runs the outdoor club, EBC week, ski bus, as well as teaching English to 8th grade)

Questions from the audience for the wellness team

1. A parent asked if the Wellness Tools Curriculum could be shared with parents so that they can be aware of what is being presented to students. Paul said that would be a good idea and would work on ways of sharing this information (perhaps include it in the Friday emails).
2. Another parent asked if student wellness is somehow being measured at the school. Paul said that yes, at the high school level, surveys have been completed by the students and once the information from those surveys is compiled the results will be shared with the students and the parents.

David Kelly-Hedrick – Experiential Education Director

David described how unique EBC week is in this area. EPS is the only school to have the whole school leave on a trip at the same time. He also described how students in grades 8-12 select their top 3 trip choices and they work really hard to give students one of those trips. Trip placements were announced to students yesterday. Some students had already used their self-advocacy skills in contacting him about their trips today. Deposits for the trips will come through BillPay via the business office. These deposits are due in December.

Questions from the audience and EBC Week:

1. One parent asked about the number of support faculty accompanying the lead faculty member on the trips. David said there are typically 6-9 students/faculty member on any given trip.
2. Another parent asked if there was any organized post-trip sharing with students? David said students usually have an assembly after EBC week with some students sharing details and experiences about their trip. David said they would look into ways of sharing this information with parents as well.
3. A question about how popular trips could be cycled more frequently into the rotation? David said sometimes it's difficult to know exactly what trips will be popular as much of it has to do with the social interest and what friends might be interested in. They will certainly look into putting popular trips on a regular cycle as well as trying to introduce new trips as well.
4. A question about how many of the trips were open to 9th grade students. David said all trips were open to 9th grade students but that priority for trips is given in grade order so it is sometimes difficult for 9th grade students to get on some of the more popular trips.
5. Some students were upset that they didn't get their first choice. David said that when you don't get your first choice one year this is a consideration the following year when determining what trip you may get.
6. Lastly, one parent gave a big thank you for all of the hard work that is put into organizing these trips

Dr. Macaluso – Head of School

No questions for Dr. Macaluso today.

Claudia thanked all the parents for attending and wished them Happy Holidays!

Meeting adjourned at 8:50AM