

**EPS PA General Meeting
February 6th, 2020**

Claudia Bayer – PA President

Claudia opened the meeting by welcoming a large group of parents attending the meeting. Claudia gave the parents an update as to what the Parent Association has been up to lately. The Faculty/Staff Appreciation crew put together wellness bags for faculty in December. The contents of these bags were donated by the 5th, 6th and 9th grade parents. The Hospitality crew organized the Winter Celebration that was attended by about 250 parents and faculty. The Winter Celebration is organized as a “thank you” for the annual fund. The annual fund this year had 100% staff/faculty participation and 96% parent participation. Claudia extended a big thank you to the EPS Kitchen staff for the great food and to Vickie Baldwin, Brittany Williams and the PA Hospitality crew for a wonderful night.

PA events coming up include the Parent Ambassador Program. This program helps current families welcome new families to EPS. This will begin later this year, but if you are interested in becoming a parent ambassador, please contact Vickie Baldwin or Claudia Bayer.

Volunteering at EPS: If you are interested in volunteering at EPS please be sure to fill out the form online. This form can be found along with your re-enrollment forms.

The sports booster will be looking for team parents for the upcoming spring sports season. Also needed will be volunteers for the Sports Banquet this spring. If you are interested in helping out with any of these please keep an eye on your email inbox!

All school events coming up include the US Play Performances on 2/6-2/8, the music concerts and Visual Arts Showcase on 2/27, EBC Info Night on 3/10 and the last parent education events with Kelly Moore in mid April.

The PA is also organizing the Valentine Extravaganza for faculty next week with donations from the 11th and 12th grade parents and a coffee cart for faculty in May.

The next PA General meeting will be on April 14th. This will be our last meeting of the school year.

Bart Gummere -Associate Head of School for College Counseling and Alumni Relations

Bart gave us an update on the work they are doing in the college counseling department. They are currently adapting the program due to the fact that the timing of the process has accelerated recently. This is due to colleges having earlier application deadlines than in the past. Some testing changes are occurring as well. The ACT, which is a test made up of 4 sections, will allow students to re-test in individual sections, instead of having to take the whole test again. At this point there is still some uncertainty as to how colleges will adapt to or accept these changes.

Bart is reaching out to EPS alumni and talking to them about the effectiveness of their program and to determine if any changes should be made to the approach that EPS makes in the college counseling program.

Alumni visited the school and spoke to the Upper school students about college life. It was well attended and the students were very interested in what the alumni had to say. Bart will be organizing for alumni to talk with seniors this spring about the transition to college and what to expect. Bart will also be working on having an assembly with local working alumni to talk about their work experience.

Kim Eng – Director of Athletics

Next year EPS sports will be competing in a new league call the Emerald Sound Conference. This league will have 2 divisions in it and will hopefully level the playing field a little since the old league had some teams that are highly competitive schools competing against schools that are in the midst of building their sports teams.

This spring EPS will be fielding for the first time a Girls Varsity Tennis team with several committed players. EPS currently has one State athlete, Amar, who will be competing at the state level this spring for Boys Tennis.

The athletics department uses Team Snap for all communication for teams and it works well, but to please remember that buses are allocated based on number of athletes committed to attending practice or games and to use team snap to let the coach know that you will be there or not.

One parent question asked how travel time to games will be impacted once the new league starts as some of the schools are located quite far away. Kim said this will impact some teams but it will depend on which division the team is in. The athletics department will be doing their best when scheduling these games that are far away to minimize the impact to the athletes' time.

Cheryl Miller – Director of Enrollment Management

Cheryl said they are in the home stretch of re-enrollment and new enrollment. EPS has a new Registrar, Cynthia Cortina who will help with student information and data management.

A question was asked about a target enrollment for the school. The Upper School has a target of about 300 students. This year's class is the last of the historically small graduating classes at 58. All grades going forward in US will have about 75 students in them.

Another question about how the process has gone this year after the elimination of early sibling enrollment. Cheryl said she would like to go through the entire cycle before commenting so that she has the best information at hand to evaluate it. This year has been smaller in sibling applications than in past years. This is seen as a natural ebb and flow. Typically, EPS siblings make up 1 in 4 of the total of accepted students.

A question was asked about 9th grade for next year. For 9th grade it looks like there are about 50 rising 8th graders and they will add about 25 new students to that class. There were 160 applications for 9th grade next year.

A question was asked about space for 7th and/or 8th for next year. It looks unlikely that there will be any spots in those grades for next year.

Terry Macaluso – Head of School

Dr. Macaluso talked to the parents about the tuition increase for 2020-2021 school year. She noted that tuition has gone up every year since they have started the school, and EPS has tried to stay in the middle of the pack when comparing to other schools. The hike this year can mostly be attributed to the fact there is a tight labor market for teachers in the Seattle area. The area is expensive to live in and many teachers do not want to make the move to this area as they cannot afford to. EPS also is losing teachers to the public school system (public schools pay more).

One question was regarding the Professional Development Project. This program has been working with teachers who want to work on professional development and improve their teaching craft. Teachers move through a set of feedback experiences and increased pay is one outcome.

Another question was about the potential of starting an endowment fund. This is something that will come in time, but given the young age of the school this is a difficult task.

A question was asked about teacher quality at EPS versus public schools. Dr. Macaluso believes our quality is higher at EPS as 90% of our teachers have degrees in the discipline that they teach in.

A question was asked about extracurricular offerings at the school for things to do when perhaps a student is not participating in a sport. Dr. Macaluso acknowledged that there seem to be fewer clubs that students can come and go in since these clubs have become competitive and at this point the students in these clubs want committed participants.

Another parent asked about the final exam schedule changes for the spring. The senior retreat was re-scheduled so that 2 US reading days could be added to the exam schedule. Dr. Stegeman has worked really hard to make sure that the current trimester's finals will go more smoothly due to more direction to teachers on what type of work can be assigned during this period.

A parent asked about whether EPS will offer summer programs this year. Dr. Macaluso said that unfortunately no, there won't be summer programs.

A parent asked about whether there will be fall overnights for this coming year. Dr. Macaluso said that on-boarding of new students is really important and that 5th, 6th and 9th grades will probably be doing something but decisions on the exact experiences for each grade have not been made yet. Planning continues on how to start the year off for the 2020/21 school year.

A question for Bart came up about whether information can be gathered from alumni about their specific college experiences and compiled for US school students to use as a resource. Bart said this was a good idea and that he would start thinking about how that can be done in the future.

Meeting adjourned 9:05AM