

Meeting Notes from EPS PA General Meeting, April 21st, 2015

I. School Update from Dr. Macaluso (Head of School):

New program development continues in both the Upper and Middle schools:

- **Grades 10-12, work continues on the 5 week seminar 'electives'** (for ½ credit, pass/fail only to encourage students to take the risk), currently have 18 options but some of those most likely will not be offered. ('Physics of Sailing' currently planned and will be taught by Jonathan Briggs).
- **Grades 7-9, Gunner Mein (current parent and EPS Technology Teacher) will host an elective** where both student and teacher will dive deeper into questions/challenges with a focus on Math & Science. This is still in the planning stage and will be offered next school year in addition to current curriculum. Once all the offerings are finalized, students will be able to see what will work in their schedules.
- **Grades 5-6, the 'Epsilon' program** (program developed by EPS staff/faculty) will offer these grades a looser format to gather, discuss and brainstorm on selected topics.
- *The goal in all cases is to provide opportunities for students to add to their curriculum something outside the norm, encouraging critical thinking and exposing the student to unique opportunities.*

Admissions:

- 2014-2015 school year enrollment – 325 students.
- Next year enrollment – approx. 360 students.
- Staffing – Have hired 11 additional staff with the BEST hiring success ever experienced by Dr. Macaluso – great hiring pool to choose from.

II. Construction Update from Bob Baldwin (Project Manager):

Please see website for the most up-to-date information: <http://building.eastsideprep.org/>

Highlights:

- Existing EPS Sport Court will soon be available to students.
- Building is beginning to get 'sealed' in – walls are going up.
- **On schedule to complete July 28th** (AHEAD of original schedule by over a month!)
- **And on budget!**

III. Admissions Update from Lauren Formo (Director of Admissions):

- **96% retention of current students** – above past average.
- **15% increase in applications.**
- **Are we Gender Balanced?** Middle School is balanced, school as a total has is 47% girls/53% boys; applicant pool has been balanced.
- **91 new students for next year**, mainly entering 5th, 6th and 9th grades.
- **NO 'Super Q'** (the full community – parent and student BBQ usually held on the sport court at the end of the year); no space due to construction.
- School will be planning smaller, new family events for this year.
- **A new 'Buddy Program' will be rolled out** soon; a formal 'ask' will either come from Lauren directly or via the Class Reps for parents willing to be a point of contact for the new families if they have any questions, etc. (specifics to be provided later).
- (Dr. Macaluso) 'We need to work on keeping our culture – make deliberate efforts to keep it going. Prospective families love the energy of the place – one of our strong draws.' 'A way to do this is to support the new Buddy Program.'