

EPS PA General Meeting

April 28th, 2021

Claudia Bayer – PA President

Claudia started the meeting by greeting the large group of EPS parents attending the last virtual meeting of the school year. She then gave a recap of PA activity this past year. The Teacher Appreciation team did quite a few events this year with 2 more to go including the desk plant growing kits going out to teachers next week and the last one of the year will be an Italian inspired meal gift basket. The Hospitality team worked hard all year trying to keep our community together during the pandemic, from the fall harvest and winter celebration, they will continue their work into the spring and summer with the upcoming virtual block parties and the newly accepted families picnics to be held in person this summer. The committee will be holding 2 of these since new families last year did not get a chance to participate at an in-person event last year.

Claudia went on to thank all of the parent reps for the last year. They also worked hard to keep our community in touch with one another having hosted over 70 virtual parent events during this school year.

Claudia then thanked all of the EPS PA Exec members, but especially Deepika Sadahiro, Stephanie Brown and Heather Burkey who will all be leaving the team at the end of the school year.

Last, but certainly not least, Claudia thanked Vickie Baldwin and Brittany Williams for all of their help and support to the EPS PA.

Vickie announced the new slate of candidates for the EPS PA Exec next year. These candidates included:

PA President - Katharine Pike

Past PA President – Claudia Bayer

Secretary – Patti Sauntry

Lead Sports Booster – Jenny Heuberger

Hospitality Team – Shairose Gulamani, Xixi Shakes, Cindy Goetzman and Bengu Bostanci

Teacher Appreciate Team – Joumana Hoballah, Dorian Bell and Diane Melling

Volunteer Coordinators – Roomi Sharma and Ruchi Bhutani

The parent community voted in the affirmative for the slate.

A few reminders to the community:

- The 3rd season of sports begins May 10. The sport available this season is basketball
- May 14th – the all-school play Metamorphosis will be shown
- May 29th – Prom for Juniors and Seniors

A few volunteer opportunities are available for parents to consider. We need 12th grade parent reps for next year and parent sports reps for the upcoming basketball season.

Cheryl Miller – Director of Enrollment Management

Cheryl began by thanking the parent ambassadors and their outreach work to newly admitted families. This really does help these families get to know the EPS community and she appreciates the effort. Cheryl announced that EPS will be fully enrolled next year with 522 students of which 98 are new students. A parent asked if there were more public school children applying to EPS due to the pandemic. Cheryl said that yes, more applications came from students attending public this year, but that the overall level of applications remained the same as last year. Another question was what is the percentage of acceptance to EPS. Cheryl said that 1 in 4 students who apply are admitted.

Bess McKinney and Ed Castro – EICL Co-coordinators

Bess and Ed talked a little bit about the work they do in Equity, Inclusion and Compassionate Leadership at the school. This year they began affinity groups for students as a way for individuals to do identity work so that they can be who they are on campus.

Bess and Ed have also organized parent guest speakers and special events/webinars this past year on the topic of EICL.

A question from a parent was whether a prayer room was available to all students of various religious affiliations and yes, there is a prayer room available to all.

Terry Macaluso – Head of School

Terry thanked Claudia for all of her hard work over the last 3 years serving as EPS PA President. Terry also announced the recipients of the Alice Strong Award this year. It was given to the members of the PA Hospitality Team comprising of Xixi Shakes, Cindy Goetzman, Shairose Gulamani and Bengu Bostanci for their outstanding contribution to our community this school year.

The middle school is getting a facelift this year. Construction is just beginning and is slated to be done by late October. The updated building will look more like the other buildings on campus once completed with more windows and larger classrooms.

Next year will be the last year that EPS will be leasing the Annex building.

A question was asked about the new 10-minute passing periods and if there was a chance to go back to the 30 min schedule. The answer to that is no, as it was done to make for less downtime for students when attending school on-campus. This schedule will remain for the remainder of the school year.

A question was also asked about bus service next year. The school is looking into how to offer bussing next year. It is always a money losing operation, but they do want to identify people with a real need for the service. Please make sure that the school is aware of your bussing needs so that routes can be designed appropriately.

Another question was whether hybrid schooling would be offered next year. The answer is yes, at least for part of the year, and teacher focus next year will be to teaching to the students in the classroom.

One last question was whether there will be a Covid vaccine requirement to return to school. At this point no as the school is not yet legally allowed to require it. Once they are, that vaccine will most probably become required.

Claudia thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned 9:30AM.