

EVANS ELEMENTARY HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING

DATE: 03/10/2010

LOCATION: Evans Elementary Media Center

ATTENDEES (based on sign in sheet):

Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla

Karen Clemens

Sue Coyne

Julie Kuerschner

Kathy Mandracchia

Susan Mercer

Lorraine Moyer

Cathy Tumelty

Beth Vallone

Jennifer Wolfe

Becky Zajac

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Call to order 7:09 pm

Guest Speaker – Dr. Marsha Hurda, SFASD Superintendent

Dr. Hurda spoke about the issues currently facing the SFASD School Board as they prepare the 2011 operating budget. The SFASD is the second largest school district in Montgomery County, with North Penn School District being the largest. As with any other business, revenues are down and costs continue to increase. Additionally, 2% of the district's income comes from federal funding and another 18% from state funding, which leaves the remaining 80% to be paid through commercial and residential taxpayers. A number of commercial properties are requesting reassessments in the current economic market. As a result, their taxes, which make up a portion of the district's income, have dropped. A reassessment for just one of these larger businesses could mean a loss of \$2 million for the district.

Operating with no changes from the 2010 budget, there is an \$8 million increase that will have to be absorbed by the 2011 budget due to the rising cost of healthcare benefits, the district's debt service (i.e., its mortgage amount) and contracted costs, including teachers' salaries.

With decreased income and rising costs, the school board is faced with the task of resolving this \$8 million "gap", without even considering implementing anything new within the district. The solution will most likely involve both a tax increase and budget cuts. A "meet in the middle" resolution is needed. The school board's job is to implement the wishes of its community, so they are turning to the community for input. However, only 30% of the homes in the SFASD district have school-age children. 70% of the residential taxpayers in the SFASD are not direct "consumers" of the services provided by the district, which may imply that those residents would not be in favor of a tax increase. This may in turn affect the quality of the education provided within the SFASD.

Parents should evaluate the district - its values, its resources... everything, and decide what is important. Is it small class size? Is it availability of administrative resources, such as house principals and guidance counselors at the secondary level who provide a consistent presence for students as they "travel" with each graduating class? Is it safety in our schools? Is it the availability of after school sports, activities and clubs? Is it the availability of a career/college center that is open one night a week to assist students in meeting their post-graduation goals? Is it a broader array of high school classes that allow for transfer of credits to colleges & universities? All of these come at a cost. The town meeting scheduled for March 24th, in the 9th Grade Center Auditorium, is an opportunity for the community to voice its opinion on what the district should be striving to maintain or grow as the 2011 budget is developed and to offers ideas on where the district may find opportunities to reduce costs. Everyone is urged to be heard at this important meeting as it will most certainly influence what the school board will act upon.

President's Report (Cathy Tumelty):

There is a NOT quorum (9 members) present at this meeting, with only six members in attendance.

Nothing to report.

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Vice President's Report (Dawn Heine):

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report (Cathy Tumelty for Sheri Barberini):

As of March 10, 2010, the account balance is \$53,807.63.

Secretary's Report (Lorraine Moyer):

Motion to approve minutes for the February 17, 2010 meeting: Jen Wolfe & Becky Zajac.

Principal's Report (Mrs. Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla):

3rd & 4th grade reading and math PSSA testing will take place from April 7th through April 14th.

2nd grade Terra Nova testing will take place from April 16th through April 23rd.

4th grade science PSSA testing will take place on April 26th & 27th.

Faculty Liaison's Report (Kathy Mandracchia):

Nothing to report.

Committee Updates:

Basket Raffle (Lorraine Moyer)

The spring Basket Raffle fundraiser will be held on Friday evening, April 23rd in the Evans Elementary Cafetorium. This year's theme is "Fun for All Seasons" and class baskets are beginning to take shape through family contributions. ALL information related to this event can be found at www.evanshsa.org on the Fundraising page. The monies raised by the Basket Raffle event will be used to expand the G1-4 playground area at the school. Consider contributing to and attending this evening of fun!!

Book Fair (Becky Zajac)

The spring book fair "60's Diner" theme will run the week of May 3rd, with Family Shopping nights to coincide with the Student Art Show on May 4th & May 6th. Each student will receive a voucher to purchase a book valued up to \$6. Additional note: Scholastic is requiring PA sales tax be collected at all book fairs.

Family Fun Night – Family Bingo (Cathy Tumelty for Susan Roscher)

Family Bingo Night will be on Friday, March 26th, in the Evans Elementary Cafetorium. Snacks will be available for purchase & prizes will be awarded to winners by special "Celebrity Callers". Additional information will be available on the H&SA website at www.evanshsa.org.

FIT Night (Cathy Tumelty for Kris Kennedy)

The last of this year's FREE "Families In Training" evening is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24th, in the Evans Elementary School gymnasium. This Circuit Fun event will be activity stations for kids and parents, ages 4 and up. Healthy snacks and water are available. For a registration form visit www.evanshsa.org.

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Committee Updates (Cont'd):

Market Day (Julie Kuerschner)

Profit through February totals \$2,500.33, with 40 customers participating in February, bringing profits to 50% of the anticipated annual profit total of \$4,500. There are many great food products to choose from through this fundraiser – all money back guaranteed! Receive a FREE “frequent buyer” portable step stool with participating purchases between February & May. You can link to Market Day’s website via the H&SA website (www.evanshsa.org) for more details and to place on-line orders.

Mommy Market (Jen Wolfe & Beth Vallone)

The morning of May 22nd will be the first ever “Mommy Market” children’s items fleamarket. This indoor event will allow Evans families to sell gently used children’s clothes, books, toys and related items for a registration cost of \$15 a table – and sellers keep all the profits! Look for additional information to be coming home soon and on the Evans H&SA website.

Refunding (Cathy Tumelty for Debbie Barth)

The BoxTops for Education Contest raised approximately \$1,100!!! Mr. VonMinden’s class won the hot dog & popcorn party with 35 complete BoxTops sheets submitted. Thank you to all who participated.

The H&SA is participating in a “Beat the Tonnage” contest in the month of April through Abitibi Paper Retriever. So bring your paper recycling to the school’s yellow & green recycling dumpsters to help us reach our goal!!!!

Original Works Student Artwork Fundraiser (Cathy Tumelty for Tracy Sergas)

This project is being coordinated with the Art Teacher, Ms. Owsiany. Orders are now being taken for a wide variety of products based on student artwork. Orders are due by March 16th.

Yearbook (Cathy Tumelty for Julie Mullin)

Yearbook orders are currently being taken. The deadline to order this year’s yearbook is Wednesday, March 10th. Contact Julie Mullin with any questions or if you would like to send in pictures.

Old Business:

Officer Nominations

With the receipt of only one nomination for the H&SA Executive Board position of Secretary, the nomination period for Secretary & Treasurer will be extended to March 19th. The nomination form is available at www.evanshsa.org - Forms page. Self nominations are allowed. Once all candidates have been contacted for consent, ballots will be distributed to all current H&SA members. Election plans will be announced at the April 14th H&SA meeting.

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Old Business (cont'd):

Acceptance of Amended By-laws with a Conflict of Interest Policy

There is NOT a quorum present to approve the revised Evans Elementary H&SA By-laws with the additional article and associated sections outlining a Conflict of Interest policy.

New Business:

There is no new business to report.

The next meeting of the Evans Elementary H&SA is on Wednesday, **April 14, 2010**, at 7 pm in the Evans Elementary School Media Center.

Motion to adjourn: 9:15 pm by Karen Clemens and Becky Zajac.