

October 19, 2011 Minutes of Eastern High School Alumni Association Board Meeting

Present: Lou Heckhuis, Eric Lynch, David Cushion, Jim Sinadinos, Jim Richter, Jerry King, Stefanie Dummer-Wolter, Robin Coe, Cori Barkman

Meeting comes to order at 3:09pm by Lou Heckhuis

- Discussion of the fact that Stefanie Wolter is in possession of a list that includes everyone who has donated money to the EHS alumni assn.
- Money coming for courtyard project

- Discussion of the fact that certain subcommittees have met (stemming out of the community discussion with the Lansing School Board) regarding the potential closing of a school
 - Stefanie Wolter sits on the revenue committee
 - Joan Nelson (the Eastside Community Director) sits on another committee.

- Discussion regarding importance of spreading the word about the IB program.
 - People need to understand program so that they don't want to lose it. People should understand that the program is not transferable to other school if EHS should close.
 - Lou Heckhuis believes that school board beginning to understand importance of IB program at EHS.

- Discussion about campaign regarding keeping EHS open:
 - Lou Heckhuis said that he received advise from school board saying "no overkill." Message should be that we are here, no just out of bias, but to ultimately save the Lansing schools.
 - Ultimately, people (on board) seem to say that it does make sense to close 5-6 elementary schools and maybe one middle school, but the 3 high schools should probably remain open.

- Discussion about finances regarding school/building maintenance.
 - David Ralph (school board) stated that it will be 106 million to make school simply safe. 273 million to make schools do necessary improvements.
 - 7million to restore EHS

- Dave Cusion revealed website he created to highlight why EHS should not close.
 - Discussion between members (including Sinadinos and Richter) regarding teachers campaigning to keep EHS open.
 - Stefanie Wolter states that few teachers have been at EHS longer than 10 years and teachers will bump to different schools....

- Eric Lynch moves to keep meeting moving to the next topic....
 - More discussion about ideas for improving website. Dave Cushion congratulated on fine work.

- Ellie Doersam begins discussion about public perception of school board:
 - Public perceives school board as hierarchy doesn't care about students
 - Lack of transparency on board
 - Lack of pr
 - Lack of communication with community/ community concerns, input ignored
 - Board not vested in community
 - Board should limit the amount of time each member should talk

- Mike Richter makes his presentation

- Robin Coe – states that certain students have not received scholarship money: Principal needs to get involved, write letter

- Stefanie Wolter moves for Cori Barkman to join Alumni Foundation Board, Ellie Doersam seconds motion, all members in favor, no one opposed