

Eisenhower Middle School PTO Meeting – October 13, 2015

President's Report

- * Honeywell alerts went out to remind parents of the PTO meeting as well as the Fall Fun Night (Oct. 23rd).
- * There was great feedback about Back to School Night...it was time saving which parents really appreciated. In order to make the visit with PE and World Language better, we may have to add an extra period or two during future BTS nights.
- * Mural looks fabulous. Aside from the eagle in the main entrance, there is also a decal that was added as you proceed down the main hall from the entrance.

Treasurer's Report

- * Tammy Snoke presented the Treasurer's Report. A few days later, we received a more detailed report from Liz Fleming. As of Oct. 16, 143 families have paid membership dues, totaling \$858. We have 86- 7th grade and 57- 8th grade families in the PTO. 7 teachers have joined. The Easiest Fundraiser has raised \$2180 to date.

Principal's Report

- * A canned food drive is being held through Oct. 27th! It's a competition between 7th and 8th grades but there will be a 1st and 2nd place, so it's a win-win. 1st place prize is a Halloween Social including a parade and prizes. 2nd place prize is an Ice Cream Social. Mr. Miller is currently looking into the most economical way to get ice cream.
- * A reminder to parents: Check the EMS homepage for daily announcements. We are trying to keep that updated. Be sure to check out our Facebook page, the website and take a look at the YouTube videos.
- * LOI (Lab of Inquiry) now has an 18 foot dry erase board, green screen, internet and electricity pole. A few classes fit at a time. Soon there will be bean bags, foam cubes, etc. for the kids to read and relax. Digital Citizenship and Media & Public Speaking will be taught in this room. It's still a work in progress. A 3-D printer will be available too. Ultimately we will get a suggestion box to name the room.

- * STEAM Room will eventually be called the EMS (Eisenhower Maker Space). Mr. Moskowitz is the main teacher in this space. There is a shop table, stools, dry erase tables. Lots of engineering going on in there!
- * Fitness Room is awesome. The TV is not up yet, but almost done. As weather gets colder, PE will use it more.
- * Mural is great; Decals on walls will be finished soon and a 2nd mural will get done.
- * Roof repair is done!
- * Next Project – Re-lock project. Doors and handles will all be new. Teachers can lock doors from the inside. It's a safety measure. All doors are getting safer.
- * Cafeteria looks great. New floor, etc.
- * Mr. Miller is happy across the board with EMS staff and how BTS night went.

Electives are more rigorous than in previous years. There was a workshop attended by the staff about teaching the whole child, focusing on social and emotional learning. With this philosophy, test scores go up.

In Civics, students are being taught about the whole world...more than just the US. Social Studies is teaching about the “world” too.

- * Teachers are good with the new schedule. Classes are a bit smaller and longer so product is great. Quality is so much better! He is getting positive feedback from teachers. Things are good!
- * Mr. Miller's newsletter went out and parents are urged to check it out on EMS's homepage! There is more info about the LOI, the STEAM lab, class schedules, the new fitness room, Chromebook news, and more.

Committee Reports

Membership – going well. Money is still coming in so we will be updated again soon. *See Treasurer's report.

Board of Education – EMS roof done. Teachers are still working without a contract. The language in contract and salary guides seem to be what can't be agreed upon. Administration still doesn't have a contract either. There are no signatures yet, but they are trying to get there...they are close. Next BOE meeting is a Ratification meeting for teachers and administration.

Volunteers – looking good! We currently have volunteers for the Fall Fun Night, spirit wear, and Step Up dance. Lots of last years Step-Up

supplies and decorations are being recycled for other events in the schools.

Box Tops – We are getting a great turn out of box tops! Already this year, we have submitted enough to earn over \$400. Keep clipping and send them in. Please check expiration dates as they are not valid if expired.

Shoparoo – Parents are urged to get the Shoparoo app. It's easy, free, and a great way to bring in extra money for the PTO. Search for the Shoparoo Fundraising App in the App store on your smart phone, sign up and start taking pictures of your receipts. We just got a check for \$109.73 from last years' "Roo points" and we only had about 9 members. Think about what we can do if more get involved!

Fall Fun Night – Friday, October 23, 7-9 pm. There will be a DJ, basketball, Wii, chess, snacks and drinks. Fall theme, not "Halloween". Wear your Fall colors! Volunteers are needed and Eileen Defuria has a sign up sheet out. Parents are helping but we can use more. Mr. Miller and Miss Omegna won't be there because of prior commitments. Teachers are welcome and we're hoping to see some (considering the contract issue). Set up starts at 6:15. Parents MUST come in and sign out their child and/or children they are responsible for. Donations of snacks and water bottles, etc. are also being accepted. Price is \$5 for any non-PTO member students. If you are a member, there is no fee for your child. Tickets are being sold Thursday, Oct. 22 and Friday, Oct. 23 during lunch periods. EMS students only.

Spiritwear – Kellie Ann Keyes is coordinator. Parents can order sweatshirts for their child with their graduation year on it as well as their last name (optional). Order through Dezine Line through October 23. <https://www.agpestores.com/dezine/line/groups.php>

Step Up Dance – Monday, June 20, 2016. Mr. Miller has some new ideas for this year's dance. We will discuss as date draws nearer.

Communication/Honeywell – All communication seems to be working well without hard copies. Parents do need to take initiative to find information too. Facebook, EMS webpage, PTO webpage are all good sources.