**Eastside High School Advisory Council**

 **November 9th 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 5 pm.

**In attendance:**

**Parents:** Zhihui Fang, Gretchen Von Mering, Quinten Eyman, Praveen Pathak, Michael Griffis

**EHS:** Shane Andrew, Coral Antony, Maria Zelaya, Adele Turnage, Dianna Payne, Saundra Scrivener

**Student:** Amber Gillette

**Community Members:** Tarcha Rentz, Kevin Thorpe

Motion to approve the meeting’s agenda was seconded and approved.

**Election of SAC Officers:**

The officers of the School Advisory Council were nominated and approved. The following members were chosen as officers:

 Chairman: Zhihui Fang

 Vice-Chairman: Quinten Eyman

 Secretary: Amber Gillette

**Establish Meeting Dates and Times:**

All of the following dates were agreed to by council members for future SAC meetings, to take place in the Eastside Media Center at 5 pm:

 February 16th

 April 6th

 May 4th

Later in the meeting, a meeting was requested to be held on January 19th as well.

A request was brought forth by Mr. Andrew concerning the renaming of SE 12th Ave to Richard E. Parker Way. Richard E. Parker was the Eastside band director for nineteen years, and worked diligently to bring the school and community together by improving the band and instilling the skills of excellence into his students. The name will be approved through the district before being officially changes. The original request for this came from former students. Ms. Rentz mentioned how influential Mr. Parker was during her time at Eastside, and mentioned that after his passing, the alumni from his time at Eastside, a very diverse group of individuals, came together to honor him.

The motion to rename 12th Ave was approved. An email will be sent to the facilities department concerning this action. It will also be announced at the next Board meeting on December 6th.

The School Improvement plan was not finished when the SAC met last. The improvement plan will be sent through email to Council members to be reviewed by November 28th. The Improvement plan introduces an added focus on positive rewards for discipline, as well as the addition of a robotics club.

Mr. Andrew brought up the need to focus on the lowest quartile, particularly in Mathematics and English/Language Arts. The need to provide professional development for teachers was noted, particularly on how to teach students to correct common mistakes on the new system of standardized testing.

For disciplinary issues, rewarding positive behavior is being emphasized. This is done through the issuing of “Ram Bucks,” which are then put into a drawing for a prize. It was noted that $500 dollars are available through the School Improvement Funds, which could be used for the purchasing of such prizes.

An inquiry was made as to whether the ninth grade bridge program will continue to be implemented. It will be, given the necessary funding.

Ms. Rentz inquired as to whether cultural awareness and parent involvement were included factors in the school improvement plan. These ideas for improving the school were first introduced at the SAC meeting to create a new school statement for the upcoming accreditation. An appeal was made for them to be implemented through the School Improvement Plan, as well.

Mr. Pathak asked if there is any penalty for being in the lowest quartile. Mr. Andrew explained that there was no punishment for students being in the lowest quartile. However, as more students in the lowest quartile make gains, the school’s score improves. Additionally, if the student is in level 1 or 2, they are put in remedial reading classes to further develop their reading skills and therefore lose an elective. As the new testing system is figured out and teachers adapt strategies to prepare students for these new tests, it is believed that the grades will increase.

At the last SAC meeting, some salaries and benefits were approved for several positions at EHS. Approximately $900,000 of school funds were utilized for teaching units, student support, administrative positions, and funding additional classes this school year. The current budget is tight due to spending on these services, and there was discussion of talking to Department of Education members and School Board members, to address the need for more guidance counselors and deans to support students emotionally, socially, and academically.

It was addressed by Ms. Scrivener that the school laptops are not being replaced this year. Students, teachers, and administration rely heavily on these laptops, so the loss of these computers would be a detriment to the school.

Ms. Payne made an inquiry as to where the current SAC budget was available. Mr. Andrew informed the council that the SAC funds were currently frozen, and the SAC money is in a deficit. The request was made by Ms. Payne to ask for SAC funding, totaling approximately $31,000, back from the financial department.

Ms. Antony noted that it is unwise to use SAC money for teacher salaries, as the lottery money is variable, and that the district should be paying for as much as they can. In the previous year, the SAC money paid for first year teachers, rather than more experienced faculty, to minimize the amount of ADS money utilized on salaries and benefits salaries.

Concern was expressed over the SAC funding, and if it is still available to the council. A request was made that we formally inquire why the council does not have access to the $31,000, and provide assistance to Mr. Andrew in regaining these funds. Mr. Andrew will also meet with Ms. Hollinger and the finance department concerning the SAC budget. Getting money to provide equitable support for student services was emphasized.

An inquiry was made as to what the One Mill funding will be used for at Eastside, now that it has been renewed. Would it go to IB salaries or the culinary program? Could this free up money in the SAC funds for other uses?

It was requested that plans and agendas for meetings be sent out by email prior to the meeting time, for review by the members beforehand.

An additional meeting was tentatively planned for January 19,2017 at 5 pm in the Eastside Media Center to further discuss the state of the budget if calendar conflicts do not exist.

**Announcements:**

Mr. Thorpe announced that many leaders in the community are concerned with the current education system, and want to provide help to our schools.

Ms. Antony thanked the SAC members for their assistance in creating the new media center, and outlined the future plans for furniture installation.

This year, there were nine National Merit Semi-Finalists and four National Hispanic Scholars at Eastside.

Cindy Ai was invited to participate in the U.S Army All-American Marching Band, and Patrick Rao was invited to participate in the All-National Honor Ensembles.

Rena Cohen was one of the three students in the nation to make a perfect score on the AP Statistics test.

Both the Cross Country team and the girls Swimming and Diving team won their regional competition, and are going to the state competition.

The volunteer of the year is Danielle Dede. Ms. Zelaya informed the council that Danielle is an amazing student who has an incredible amount of school spirit, and works hard to give back to her community.

Heather Christian was named Eastside’s teacher of the year.

The motion to end the meeting was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 pm.