

Symmes Elementary PTO General Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Call to Order

Camilla Millar

Approval of February 11, 2016 meeting minutes

Leigh Grause

- *Motion to approve – motion 2nded*

Teacher Representative Report

Cathy Jones

- *1st grade – Newport Aquarium field trip coming up (3/14), students will see some amazing sea creatures. Students are also hard at work writing book reviews on some of their favorite books.*
- *3rd grade – Wax Museum was a big success, students enjoyed learning about their famous people and dressing up. Students also participated in a science experiment on the UC/Blue Ash campus. Experiment mirrored what they're learning in science about physical and chemical changes. The 3rd grade music program is on 3/15 and students have also been busy rehearsing.*
- *4th grade – Students finished non-fiction unit in reading/writing for the American Revolution and the have published books that will be coming home shortly. MAP testing scheduled for 3/20 and 3/21. Students are also participating in practice AIR tests for Reading and Math. Actual test dates are 4/11, 4/12, 4/19 and 4/20. Reminder that Freedom Center field trip is coming up on 4/24. Permissions slips coming home soon.*

Welcome To EH Greene

Matt Tudor

- *Matt Tudor – principal at E.H. Greene*
 - o *Presentation - 3 major focus points*
 - *Introduction to great staff who are prepared to welcome 4th graders*
 - *This is a brief overview – more info will be coming home in the 4th grade newsletter*
 - *Expectations - Greene puts a lot of responsibilities on the students. Greene 101 is an orientation program in August. It is optional but really prepares kids for life at Greene.*
 - o *Introductions - staff, administrators and volunteers*
 - *Marilee Tanner – Asst Principal (4th)*
 - *Jay Meno – Asst Principal (5th)*
 - *Jennifer Asher (A-K) names – counselor*
 - *Tracey Bachmann (L-Z) – counselor*
 - *Jason Dimaculangan – PTO President*
 - o *Important dates*
 - *3/23 – student information forms due*
 - *5/11 – electronic course selector available*
 - *5/15 – 4th grade parent orientation night*
 - *5/16 – meet the teacher day*
 - *8/6 – Get Connected @EHGreeneSchool*
 - *8/7-10 – Greene 101 program*
 - *8/15 – First Day of School*
 - o *Sample Schedule*

- ***team-based school – breaks down large school population into smaller communities for students*
 - *Each team made of 4 teacher rooms, labeled by color*
 - *Each teacher teaches 1 subject and homeroom, kids rotate through rooms during the day*
 - *Kids have individual schedules (they do not move as a homeroom unit)*
 - *Gifted programming – Advanced Language Arts and Math*
 - *These students go out of the team for those classes but with other students from their respective teams*
 - *IEP students will be attached to a Special Education teacher that is assigned to respective team.*
 - *Schedule is biggest change for new students – earlier wake ups, lockers, more teachers, etc.*
 - *Sample schedule includes academics in the morning, specials in the afternoon, end of day with flex time (focus is reading/math for most kids)*
 - *Specials – more variety (band, orchestra, choir, multimedia, general music, art, computer science, and advanced options that require tryouts).*
- *Electronic Course Selector*
 - *Will be available on 5/11. The selector includes ranks and specials. Most students get all requests. More information coming home through the S'more, BB Connect and through Elementary Schools.*
 - *Selector will be used for 6th graders as well.*
- *Clubs and Activities*
 - *Activity brochure included on the website. Includes a wide variety of interests such as athletics, coding, tech, and chess.*
 - *All activities will begin after the start of school.*
- *PTO*
 - *Involvement encouraged on the board as well as a volunteer*
 - *Openings for new board members and the PTO would love to have representation from our Symmes community.*

Principal & Assistant Principal Report

Anne Van Kirk and
Jessica Ralston

- *2 initiatives*
 - *Aviation Station – 3rd visit scheduled for the week after spring break. Focus will be on robotics.*
 - *STEAM Day – first annual event scheduled for 4/25. It will run a lot like Grandparents Day. All parents will be invited and students will be doing various experiments.*
- *School safety*
 - *Doors locked – all doors are locked before school and after school. Arrangements must be made for access for all after school programs.*
 - *Window punches – included in classroom emergency bags. Teachers have had training on how to properly use them (ALICE safety training).*

- *District communication – safety video posted on the website*
 - *Elementary level – students are trained to follow the teacher for instructions in an emergency as they are too young to make their own safety decisions.*
 - *Reunification location is Blue Ash Rec Center for all the district (open 24/7).*
- *Classroom doors - are to be locked during the school day. This prevents fumbling to lock them in emergency. Our doors have magnets that prevent the door from closing completely, which limits disruptions during the school day. It is then much easier to remove the magnet quickly for a locked door in the event of an emergency.*
- *Lobby Guard – to be installed after spring break. It scans driver's licenses, does a background check (for sexual offenders) and prints ID badges with pictures.*
- *MAP – testing scheduled for the week before spring break.*
- *Staffing changes - Jill Evans will be relocating to Kansas, and Cathy Ashton is retiring.*
- *Recycling bins – located in the Symmes parking lot. There is a contest for the most material collected and Symmes is currently in the lead. Winner will get a trophy.*

President Report

Camilla Millar

- SAC sponsored Collaborative meeting for IEP development, 3/19, Symmes 6-8 P.M. MPR, RSVP: hayess@sycamoreschools.org
 - Symmes SAC IEP meeting 3/9 6-8 pm - invites should be sent out but can also RSVP at email address above (hayes)
 - *Other Items*
 - *Educational visioning goals – facilities updates and planning process*
 - *Renovate to replace ratios – architects are evaluating the costs to renovate facilities vs. replace buildings. The highest ratios right now are the Jr. High and Greene school, followed by Symmes.*
 - *Educational visioning assessment meetings –*
 - *2 open dates – meetings will be held at Greene school on 4/24 and 5/1 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.*
 - *Public may attend if interested in providing input on what our schools need.*
 - *Next steps –*
 - *After information is collected, summer 2018 should yield formal Master Plan options.*
 - *Concept tests will be conducted next fall which will provide feedback on the Master Plan.*
 - *December 2018 goal is to have recommendations for future plans.*
 - *Soccer Club - Mr. Phou is sponsoring soccer club after school.*
 - *He may also be able to get ticket discounts or reserve a block of seats for FC Cincinnati opening day – 4/7*

Treasurer's Report

Ashley Werthaiser

- *Carnival was a success in terms of fundraising, we should have enough to honor all Spring teacher gifting requests.*
- *Received our Kroger check - \$800*
- *GE provided matching donation of \$2k was finally received – money is directed for Nature Trail over several years.*

VP Family Involvement

LaToya Goshen

- Nominating Committee is still looking to fill a few spots. Please let LaToya know if you would like to nominate yourself, or someone else, for a Board or Chair position for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Donuts with Dad Wednesday and Friday this week 3/7 and 3/9
- Lucky Charm Faculty Lunch on March 23rd. We are asking for 4th grade to help with this one.

VP Ways and Means

Patricia Barros and
Kenna Wahlquist

- Spring Dodgeball May 11
- Great Gatherings still going on – get your spot on SignUp Genius!
 - Henna Party 3/18
 - Kids in the Kitchen Meal Prep – 3/18
 - Nerf Wars – 3rd & 4th grade boys – 3/30
- Carnival Recap: Success!!!!
 - *Carnival was a big success thanks to all the committee members, volunteers and staff!*
 - *We raised enough funds to honor spring gifting requests for teachers.*
 - *Bidding For Good*
 - *Feedback received was positive and most enjoyed the online auction*
 - *Sunny Pitt noted ticket sales were much easier to manage using an online platform.*
 - *Earnings were less than previous year, but hopefully it will catch on more if we use this feature again next year.*
 - *Suggestions to leave the auction open longer are noted and we will try to incorporate more changes next year!*

Recording Secretary

Leigh Grause

- ★ Yearbook orders can still be made at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com>. Our school code is 2211618. Questions, please contact Kim at Khueil@cinci.rr.com!

VP Student Programs

Alison Peterman

- Symmes Players
- 3rd Grade Spring Concert March 15

Corresponding Secretary

- PTO Parking Space Drawing
 - *Winner - Leigh Grause*

New Business

Old Business

Adjournment

