



Educational Horizons Charter School

1281 S Wickham Rd

W. Melbourne, FL 32904

pto@educationalhorizons.net

321-729-0786

PTO Meeting – April 11th, 2023 6:30 pm

**Dress down** passes will be given to students for family participation. Hours will be recorded in volunteer book – please update

**Child Care** – If we have a volunteer to watch the 3 years and up children: No volunteers this meeting.

**Welcome** – Megan Naugle

**Minutes** – Tanesha Wilson & Gerardo Capote

- Minutes sent home with April newsletter, copy in office, and uploaded to webpage.

**Focus: Parent AND Student Survey Results**– Reviewed by Mrs. Turner

### **Survey Results:**

The survey is done once per year. Stakeholders and grandparents were also sent the survey. From the survey a suggestion was made to have a “Fun Committee”- separate from the PTO aimed at creating new opportunities for building community spirit. Other suggestions included more emails to keep parents more active, more opportunities to voluntary on school campus during class time since students are in school.

Generally, parents felt that PTO is serving the purpose that it should. PTO is doing a great job but more parents are needed to volunteer since it is always the same parents volunteering. Suggestions were also made to make campus feel more safe- having cops walk around, not leave early on Fridays, and having an intercom system to allow parents be buzzed into the office. More than 94% of parents would recommend the school to a neighbor.

### **Discussions**

Safety and Privacy Screen for lunch area- Mrs. Turner pointed out that it was not recommended by local law enforcement to install a privacy screen at the lunch area; it would simply block the breeze and cause blind spots. A fence was also suggested for the front of the lunch area. It was advised that this would restrict visibility and would be a safety violation. She assured the patients that windows and doors are impact resistant and have safety features. Parents present at the meeting also asked about the following:

**If homework could be eliminated.** Mrs. Turner explained that homework helps with application of concepts through contexts shifts. Our school starts later and ends early so children need that time for meaningful interaction with the material.

**Adding a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade-** Mrs. Turner is advised we would have to change our charter. Mrs. Turner looked at buying the building across the street; however, they have been several issues with getting approvals from local residents and Brevard County. Leadership is constantly exploring opportunities for growing the school to include the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Water Cooler for Teachers and students-** Teachers bring water from home. There is also filtered water for teachers. Students can bring a second bottle of water to re-fill their water bottles. Tap water is also safe for the students to have.

**Improving and upgrading the playground-** The VPK portion of the playground will be updated. Wood is supported by Montessori. Playground is still within timeframe of use, but once they breakdown, things will be upgraded.

**Could parents have lunch with the kids-** This was a practice in the past and it was stopped due to COVID. Parents were bringing unhealthy lunches, parents were late and parents would also have to be a registered volunteer.

**Clubs and Activities-** Mrs. Turner pointed out that parents can think of ways in which to volunteer using their talents. If parents have ideas for clubs, they can connect with Mrs. Turner to work out the logistics.

### **The kid's survey was done on April 1, 2023**

Some suggestions made by students include:

- More time for recess
- Remove uniforms
- Needs more than 1 bathroom per classroom
- Playground equipment is needed.
- Lunches need to be improved

### **Treasurer's Report-Diana Hernandez**

- Balance \$13,000.00 with expenses to come out for the remainder of the year.
- Intercom for outside \$1200.00 installed and working. We have a generous family with a corporate donation to EHCS which will cover most of the cost.
- Box Tops (\$188.00) not received yet – final Amazon (not received yet)
- Jog-a-thon final count about \$7000.00 after expenses for trophies and prizes– to be awarded at April 14<sup>th</sup> Spirit Day! WAY to go!
- DEFY Fall Fundraiser final count is not known at the moment and it is to be used for Fall Fun Event

### **Vice President's Report – Jessica Applewhite and Alicia Savela**

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- Morning mile will run through April - sign up at <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0e44a8a82da4facf8-morning>. Morning Mile ends on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Volunteer Appreciation and Talent show (April 20<sup>th</sup>). Calvary Baptist 2980 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935. This is for all families to thank them for their volunteer hours (flier went home in newsletter). Kids can sign up to perform at the show. **Deadline for RSVP is April 13<sup>th</sup>**.
- Nominate a Volunteer of the Year for 2023 – send names to Mrs. Turner in office or PTO email. This person should have given 10 hours – not the most- (graciously) is a good role model for the school and a true cheerleader! This person will be recognized at the Appreciation dinner on April 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Teacher Appreciation (April 17 to 21)** flier sent out. Mrs. Turner is looking for volunteers to help decorate the car loop with garden flowers made of paper. Check newsletter for daily activities and themes.
- Service project - Chick-fil-A for Special Olympics (April 21<sup>st</sup>) sponsor Mrs. Turner – bucket drop Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in pm car loop or send money to the office (goal is \$500.00 bail to get down from roof)
- Health and Wellness (May 22), Last full day of school. Many hands needed and presenters, do you know someone who can present to our children 9-12? Ideas: martial arts, swimming safety, bike safety, sun care. Please contact PTO, front office or Mrs. Turner if you are able to volunteer or have a presenter for the event.
- EOY And Graduation (May 23), Calvary Baptist 2980 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935 – doors open 5:45 – no need to arrive too early. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are usually given a gift. The suggestion is to have students go to the Game Over Arcade and have pizza for students. It would not be a school event, but parents can come together have an even for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to send them off. All attends agreed with this idea for the graduates. This will be funded by the PTO. Cost would be between \$9 -\$10 per child.
- VPK/Preschool (CDAY) Parent Picnic (May 26<sup>th</sup>) in the am class time, come get to know your classmates sign up to come home
- Fall Fun Event (November 9<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> possibly) Ideas presented at meeting for vote and discussion. Wickham Park was ruled out because it required a lot of volunteers in addition to cost. Other suggestion was to have a farm as the venue. The farm ideas will allow for parents to enjoy the experience with kids instead of volunteering if hosted at Wickham Park. A vote was taken to see if this idea should be pursued by parents through a survey. It was agreed by all that the survey would be sent out to parents.
- Added a school kick off water day event (August 19<sup>th</sup> possibly). Megan Naugle presented the idea and parents loved the idea of welcoming students back to school.

### **Principal's Report – Mrs. Turner**

- Parent participation for VPK, Preschool and Kindergarten went well
- Flooring completed in building A, Building B will be done in summer
- NEW registration policy for BPS – FOCUS with BPS forms
- Final PM3 will be May 2 and 3 for VPK, and K-2, PM3 will be May 8 and 9 for 3-6, Science will be May 13-14 for grade 5
- NEXT year instead of a Chili cook- suggested to have an international food day in its place. Everyone was excited about the idea.
- Mrs. Turner asked parents to start thinking of their talents and what can you do next year to support the school. Some suggestions for volunteer time include cheering clubs, joining the PTO board, helping with classrooms tasks. Mrs. Turner encouraged parents to get involved. Every family is expected to complete 10 hours. Letters went home to families if not on track.

### **Teacher's Report – Mrs. Carlson**

**Kindergarten** is having spirit day on Friday April 14th.

**Grades 1 and 2** went on a successful field trip to Wickham Park. They are working on 3-digit addition and literature writing.

**Grades 3 and 4** will be going on their field trip on April 27<sup>th</sup> to see HG Wells play the “Time Machine”. They are working converting fractions to decimals this month.

**Grades 5 and 6** are working on play reading and fraction manipulations.

**Concerns and questions:** None additional

**Next Meeting:**

Final meeting May 9<sup>th</sup> – close the school