

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
January 11, 2023
VIA Zoom
7:00 P.M.
Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Devyn Kolcun called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear, Jason Gullstrand. Debbie Kulick was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Riker, William Vitulli, George Andrews, Diana Allison, Joseph Martin, Sara Mapes, Amy Messana, Eric Forsyth, Brian Baddick, Tabitha Bradley, Heather Piperato, Trenee Lurry, Louis Santiago, Devyn Kolcun
- IV. Community Members Present:** Jane Gagliardo, John Gerhardt
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for January 11, 2023, with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action in the best interest of the District. A motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and Rebecca Bear seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Jason Gullstrand to approve the minutes for the November 9, 2023, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Rebecca Bear to approve the 2023 dates for the Education P & R Committee Meetings. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry

Dr. Bonilla introduces Trenee Lurry for an update on the BE ALLiance. Trenee starts off the update with explaining the name change from previously being DEI to BE ALLiance. Mrs. Lurry goes on to share that they are the Belonging and Equity Alliance with the hashtag of Be All. The updated name of the Alliance was confirmed to reflect the growth and changes within the group and for the work that they are doing as a team. Trenee Lurry explains that they wanted a name that would reflect their connection to equitable practices and education and belonging, which are needed equally for tool growth and change to take place. Mrs. Lurry continues sharing that our differences are what makes us unique and joining together to embrace that East Stroudsburg is a place where students can be their authentic selves in a learning environment while developing a true connection to their school community. Trenee goes over

the dates in January that are relevant for diversity and goes over the events that they will be holding for these dates. Dr. Bonilla thanks Trenee and appreciates Trenee paying attention to the dates for each month to remind everyone of the diversity within our school district. Dr. Vitulli shares a slideshow of the artwork that students have submitted for the Juliana Bolt Art Contest.

b. E-Team - Joseph Martin and Diana Allison

Dr. Bonilla introduces the E-Team of Joseph Martin and Diana Allison. Joseph Martin starts off by sharing what he and Diana do within the school district and also what they are for the E-Team. Mr. Martin starts the presentation by informing how long this team has been around and what exactly the team does. This team is formed of 36 students who come together once a month to provide community technology outreach to the older adults within our community. These students also collaborate with each other to create four creative and relevant presentations that support senior citizens. Mr. Martin goes on to explain that this is a great opportunity as well for the students as they are able to learn to be more empathetic and engage with our community by providing the assistance they need. The E-Team has been around for 14 years and Mr. Martin shares the application process and how the students who would like to be involved get picked. Diana Allison adds if anyone is interested in seeing it in action she provides where anyone can find the dates for the rest of the year. Dr. Bonilla thanks Diana and Joseph for everything they are doing with the E-team and the work they put in. Dr. Bonilla then shares a story of seeing a presentation for the E-Team at the School Board Association Conference. She adds that she is happy to see that we are bridging the generational gap between our young people and our community seniors. Rebecca Bear agrees with Dr. Bonilla and adds that a lot of school districts within PA were asking questions on how to start this program at their school and community. Jason Gullstrand adds that it is fantastic that the school district provides this community service and that the kids are able to communicate with multiple generations from where they are. George Andrews would like to add that he would like to be a part of this and involved in this as a senior citizen himself.

**Presentation available by contacting Joseph Martin or Diana Allison

c. PTO - Amy Messana Lehman/North High School

Dr. Vitulli introduces Amy Messana who represents the PTO for High School North and Lehman. Amy begins by explaining the PTO Membership drive and the prices that they can contribute. Mrs. Messana goes on to share some future plans that they would like to have at Lehman, which include, discounts on tickets to school play performances, discount on entrance fees to dances, and discount on merchandise at the school store. Amy continues to share some fundraisers that they are also looking into continuing doing and then also shares some future fundraisers that she thinks would be a really big hit. Amy shares the events that they are going to be offering to students. These events include the 8th grade dance and a quarterly theme dances. She is hoping that there would be no fees for students or there would be a small fee. Mrs. Messana starts to share the PTO events and plans for High School North; some of these events that are sponsored by the PTO include, pre-prom reception, awards reception, teachers and staff appreciation breakfast/luncheon, and PTO scholarship. Dr. Bonilla thanks Amy for sharing all the events being planned and shares her excitement for the monthly food trucks that they have in mind as it is a very creative way to get new food options up in the North Campus' where there are not too many restaurant options. Jason Gullstrand adds that a lot of the time what is taken for granted is all the planning that is done in the background to get these events going. Mr. Gullstrand appreciates all the work that is being put in. Rebecca Bear adds that she would like to also be a volunteer if there is ever a moment that they need any help and to reach out. Mrs. Bear adds she is also excited for the food trucks and looks forward to the events coming. George Andrews likes the ideas that they have come up with and appreciates the PTO very much.

**Presentation available by contacting Amy Messana

d. Service Learning Project - Sara Mapes - Student Teacher at MSE

Dr. Bonilla introduces Sara Mapes who was a student teacher over at Middle Smithfield. Sara starts off by thanking everyone for the opportunity to be able to come to the meeting and share her interest with the Service Learning Project. Sara goes on to explain that she had organized a walk a thon with the American Cancer Society and with relay recess. Every student and teacher walked along the field and they had four stations setup that revolved around health and how to prevent cancer and to spread awareness for cancer. These stations included: a nutrition station, a fitness station, a sunscreen station, and a tobacco station. Sara Mapes provides the committee with a video that shows how the event went that provided photos to support the event. Dr. Bonilla shares that she loved seeing how the kids were so engaged in the event. Rebecca Bear adds that the video shared was beautiful and is hopeful that Sara joins ESASD again as she is now in New York teaching. Jason Gullstrand shares that as an educator we hope to inspire the students by any moment and thinks that this event will definitely be one of those moments for them. Mr. Gullstrand also gives kudos to Sara for the event and all that helped get her there. George Andrews would like to add that he thinks it is a great program and hopes that the event continues even without Sara being employed there. Dr. Bonilla would like to honor Miss Jennings as her class participated and that she definitely left a mark on the district, Middle Smithfield, and our community. Dr. Vitulli adds thanks to Sara for the great presentation and very touching,

**Presentation available by contacting Sara Mapes

e. Communications Update - Eric Forsyth

Dr. Vitulli introduces Eric Forsyth who will be giving some highlights on what to expect next month. Eric Forsyth starts by sharing that they are doing a lot more to start advertising these types of meetings to the community. Mr. Forsyth adds that they have been very pleased with a lot of the submissions that have been brought into his department and have seen an entire change in the engagement on the website itself. Ultimately that is what they are looking for as they don't want individuals to come to the website but to also take the time and click around and read information provided to them. Mr. Forsyth adds that they have decided to start doing a Recap Newsletter periodically that would highlight some of the past stories that were most visited on the website so individuals who were not able to view will see them in the newsletter. This will be pushed out to all subscribers, including, the community, students, staff, and parents. Mr. Forsyth shares that his team and himself have come up with a new ESASD app that will allow all of the mobile users to have all the items that they may need in one place. Demonstrations of this app will be provided at the February meeting to show what it is capable of doing. Mr. Forsyth continues to share that they have been spending some time with My School Bucks who is a vendor within our district that allows parents to make contributions and funding our students' school meal accounts and nutrition funding. They currently though are working on ways to expand the use of the platform which would include, collecting any obligations or fees for field trips and even class dues. Eric shares that they are really trying to make everything cashless so it is easier on the parents to not have to worry about going to get cash out. Mr. Forsyth also shares that they are coming up with a new template for the website and able to work with the technology department with Mr. Borosh to finalize and have it also be very mobile friendly. Mr. Forsyth continues that they are acting quickly on the board policy that was approved regarding the searches and the types of bags and packages that can be brought into our district. Another item that his department is currently working on is with the HR department to produce an AD for recruiting teachers so when they attend teacher recruiting events at universities throughout the state they have an AD for the program that they give out to potential candidates. Mr. Forsyth also adds that they were able to get ADs placed on all the MCTA Buses running within the county and advertising the most needed positions, such as, teachers, paraprofessionals, student aides, and bus drivers. Dr. Bonilla thanks Mr. Forsyth for sharing all the information and adds the importance of having the

communications update as we have committed to this opportunity to reach the families and community. Rebecca Bear is excited for the app so when she is on the go she can always get to events quickly. Mrs. Bear is also excited to see the additional usage of School Bucks but also raises concern about signal up at the North Campus and if the community will have issues getting into the program. Dr. Bonilla added that she would also like to see on the website translations and the opportunity to reach diverse audiences in our community. Mr. Forsyth shares that the new update to the website will provide the website with all languages that are available within Google translate. Jason Gullstrand adds that he is looking forward to the next couple months to see everything get updated. Mr. Gullstrand also shares the technology side of sharing with potential candidates how our district compares to others and he is happy that we showcase it. George Andrews adds that it is very informative and shows that we are moving forward and glad we are getting it out to the community and not just sitting on it.

VII. Questions & Comments from Board Committee Members on agenda items

There are no questions from Board Committee Members.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Dr. Bonilla opens up the meeting to public discussion. There are no questions or comments from the public.

IX. NEXT MEETING - February 8, 2023

<p>RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to adjourn was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Jason Gullstrand. The motion was carried unanimously.</p>

X. ADJOURNMENT: 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun