

## **STCE PTO Minutes**

### **January 26, 2021**

Mary Gerkin called meeting to order at 6:35pm

In Attendance: Mary Gerkin, Katie Robak, Megan Grohe, Mr. Jim Richter, Kathryn Reda, Mr. Keith Glavan, Michele Brown, Bonnie Marinucci, Amy Sheridan-Dufresne, Yvette Stahl, Stephaine Fullhart, Barb Fetter, Kris Petrick, Molly Risberg and Valerie Kelly

November 2020 Minutes were approved

#### **School Reports**

##### **Student Council, Kathryn Reda:**

Student council will be accepting applications for next year, March 5th is the deadline. Will hold a Future Saints Night in early Spring for all incoming Freshman to explore clubs and athletics offered at East. Student Council members attended a Leadership Conference hosted by the Illinois Department of Student Activities.

##### **Teacher Liaison, Mr. Keith Glavin:**

###### **Theater** - Teresa Bundy

We had a virtual theater festival in lieu of the state one we normally attend. However, this year, we had alumni present a variety of workshops on January 9th in both performance and technical theater. [Here is the website the students put together for the event.](#)

Our winter show, Jungle Book is almost ready to be recorded and will be streamed mid-February. Then we have our spring musical auditions for Working the musical. This musical is a celebration of the American worker with songs from James Taylor, Stephen Schwartz, Lin-Manuel Miranda and other songwriters. It will be recorded at the end of April and streams in May. The students miss performing for a live audience, but absolutely love it when they see the community supporting them by watching their streamed performances. We can always use PTO help with getting the word out into the community about future performances.

###### **Social Studies** - Andrew Johnson

Mike Sommerfeld, our Athletic Director, was a guest speaker in my Legal System class to share his perspective on a pending Supreme Court case involving student speech (on social media) and extracurriculars. Mr. Sommerfeld shared how our school would handle a similar occurrence (the young lady sent an Instagram message to her friends with profanity about the school and extracurriculars).

###### **National Honor Society** - Andrew Johnson

The National Honor Society is taking part in Senator Don DeWitte's (former mayor of St. Charles) "Valentines for Senior Citizens" card writing community service activity where they will write uplifting Valentine's Day messages to senior citizens who are in assisted living or long term care facilities in our area. Senator DeWitte's office will deliver the completed cards and letters.

###### **Saints ISO** - Donna Wisely

Saints ISO is getting started again! We're going to be working on some individual basketball skills for the next few weeks.

**X-Ray - Leslie Ladowski**

The X-ray newspaper is online this year. There is a link to [eastxray.com](http://eastxray.com) on the East website. Students are doing a great job. We are still hoping to get a few printed issues out before the end of the year, too.

**Key Club - Darcy Ullman**

Key Club will be doing a clothing drive for the Salvation Army on Feb 11 and 12 from 6:45-7:20am and 12:35-3:30pm both days. Anyone can bring new or gently used clothing to Door #1 and give it to a Key Club member or drop it in the red bins. Trying to do our part to help anyone we can any way we can!!

**Business Ed****DECA** (Business Club)

DECA is beginning our first ever Virtual State competition. We have 16 students competing in a variety of events. Some are returning students, and quite a few are first timers!

Some of the events they are competing in are: Sports and Entertainment marketing, Entrepreneurship, Full Serve Restaurant Management, Automotive services marketing, Financial Services plus quite a few more. We also have one student competing in a written research event as well (Business Operations Research). Over the course of the next few weeks, students will be taking an online cluster area test, and uploading their case study role plays. We appreciate the flexibility that our students have shown and look forward to seeing how State turns out. If students place in the top 3 of their event, they will move on to the National Competition, which will also be virtual this year.

**SkillsUSA** (Career Club)

Students are preparing for State Qualifying events that will be held February 19-25. These events will qualify students to attend the state conference. State Conference competitions will be a combination of submitted events and video-conference events.

**VEI**

January 26, 27 VEI Firms are competing in Regional Business Plan Competition, a remote oral presentation of this year's business plan for each firm. Final rounds will take place on 1/28.

Winner move on to National Competition

**INCubator / ACCELerator** - Entrepreneurship

Student entrepreneur teams will be pitching their ideas next week in an effort to gain funding to continue market testing their business ideas. Business professionals from around the area will provide feedback and incites to students.

**Principal's Report, Mr. Jim Richter:**

We started the new semester with students coming back in January.

We held our first virtual Future Saints Night on 1-13. We welcomed our future 9th grade students and their families to learn more about academic offerings at East. March 24 will be the virtual Activity/Athletics Night.

We had a new schedule go into effect last week with the elimination of the full remote days for all students and the new Extended Learning Sessions.

The Class of 2021 Celebration Committee will be meeting for the first time on Thursday. We have six students and six parents from each high school represented.

We will be starting student focus groups to gather feedback about learning during a pandemic. Those will start next week. I will also be meeting with our PAC next week where I continue to solicit feedback from students as I have done throughout the year.

Sports and club meetings are beginning to occur after school. It is great to bring students back into the building in the evening for more than just academics.

**Treasurer Report, Katie Robak:** PTO and Post Prom budgets were presented. The balance in the PTO checkbook is \$8,138.75 and the Post Prom checkbook balance is \$5,970.73. Taxes are due.

### **Committee Reports**

**Grounds Beautification, Crissy Webbe and Valerie Kelly:** Fresh seasonal greens were arranged in 4 planters which will stay until Spring planting. Committee planted two planters and two volunteer families planted the remaining two pots.

**Post Prom, Katie Robak:** Post Prom met in December and came up with a proposal and ideas of how to hold an event with Covid restrictions. Plan was submitted to the Assistant Superintendent which detailed an outdoor event at the Stadium with a back up plan for an indoor venue, if needed due to weather. Mr Richter stated the proposal was met with positive feedback for the level of detailed planning by the Committee.

**Student Activities, Mary Gerkin:** None

**Greater Education Foundation:** Planning on a Spring outdoor event at Pollyanna Brewery. More info on date and time to follow. Mary Gerkin volunteered to organize a basket valued at \$300 on behalf of PTO for the auction.

**District PTO Representative, Alison Murnane:** None

**Senior Awards, Amy Sheridan-Dufresne:** Presented a draft of the scholarship application to the PTO. Students must submit their essay and application by April 5th which will be available to students in late February both in the Guidance Office and online. Will send out more info for volunteers, Senior parents cannot participate.

**Staff Appreciation, Aracely Curtis, Crissy Webbe and Valerie Kelly:** Being creative with Covid restrictions. Use of interactive bulletin boards. Planning on February/Valentines Day staff appreciation with the theme "How Sweet It Is" consisting of 20 Valentine related riddles with prizes of \$10 gift cards and chocolate bars, and will include remote teachers. SignUp Genius will be going out requesting donations. March ideas for staff appreciation will be a possible theme of "Race To Spring Break!", modeling The Amazing Race for teachers to participate in around school.

**Senior Signs, Megan Grohe, Katie Hollman, and Bonnie Marinucci:** Bill and Barb Fetter have generously volunteered to sponsor senior signs for The Class of 2021. Celtic Custom will be producing signs. More info to come on volunteer sign up for delivery.

**President's Report, Mary Gerkin:** PTO Grants are approaching the due date, and the PTO will be reviewing any requests submitted.

The meeting was adjourned at: 7:32pm

Respectfully submitted by Megan Grohe STCE PTO Secretary 2020-2021

Next Meeting 6:30pm on February 23, 2021 Via ZOOM