

SMOKY VALLEY HOME EDUCATORS, INC.

Business Meeting

Virtually via Google meet

02-10-2020

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order by President Arlen Redden @12:15 p.m.

Attendees: Arlen Redden, Lane Mills, John and Sonja Woods, Leah Graves, Jessica Linam, Aimee Irlbeck, Hayley Redden, and Erin McQuillan

Topics of Discussion: Approval of prior meeting minutes, Treasurer's report, Committee reports, Fieldtrips, Choir, 4-H, T.E.A., Eaglebots, CHECK update, Webpage, Graduation, Sports, Old and New Business.

Lane Mills opened in prayer.

Roll of attendees

Reviewal of last business meeting minutes. Arlen has added the minutes the webpage. Leah Graves motioned to approve minutes from last business meeting. Hayley Redden second to approve. Vote to approve meeting minutes. All in favor: none oppose.

Treasurer's report, given by Leah Graves: There was a reimbursement to T.E.A. for supplies and mailers for their fall event, otherwise, no new business to report. Arlen stated Basketball will send a report and update when the season is over. An update will be provided for our last meeting of the year. Arlen will try to get a budget from baseball as it will be starting next.

Committee Reports:

Arlen announces no changes regarding SVHE library. Reminder that library is open during church hours. Lane Mills confirms open hours are M-TH 9 am-4pm, closed over lunch. Kimmi Smith emailed Arlen that she has 2 boxes of DVD's and CD's to shelve, but all books are organized and shelved in the center of the room. A reminder was given that SVHE members have access to all material in the church's library as well.

Co-op Fieldtrips: Classical Conversations Director, Hayley Redden reports museums are still closed due to Covid lockdowns. The CC group is fairly large with 150 people overall, and majority don't wear masks. This has made it difficult to convince outside groups such as the orchestra to come to them. Next up on the schedule is an old-fashioned field day with relay races. It is on the schedule for April 22nd, from 10-noon at First Covenant Church. May 1st is Millfest in Lindsborg, hopefully it will still happen this year. And the CC group will have Faces of History even on February 25th at 12:30 at First Covenant Church, it is open to anyone. Field Day is also open to everyone.

Choir and 4-H: Per the email from Lindi Fahrenthold, Arlen announced there are no new updates for 4-H or choir. The music theory class and elementary music is still meeting on Weds. and will continue through this semester.

T.E.A.: Missy sent a group email with information regarding Mission's Month. They have chosen to volunteer with a local ministry called Laundry of Love and Amanda Reynolds is looking for volunteers, supplies, shift times to be picked up. If you can donate supplies, they prefer detergent pods, but detergent is fine, dryer sheets, bleach, and laundry bags are great and appreciated. Or you could choose a shift to work. Feb. 16th from 6-9 pm, or Feb 27th at 9 am-1 pm or noon-4 pm.

Eaglebots: No new updates from Jason Tracy, the group is still meeting virtually.

Lane Mills updates: Eaglebots is meeting in person for robot programming and to prepare for a virtual competition in 2.5 weeks. Not sure how it will work for parents since competition is virtual, as well as the judging.

Arlen announced Jason Tracy is considering passing off leadership of the Eaglebots group for next year. A section of the webpage needs to be updated to add pictures for Eaglebots if it continues. Arlen said he will work on that. Arlen suggested needing a second group. Lane stated there isn't a need for a second group right now and that anyone can coach an Eaglebots group, it just requires parental guidance to do the work and point the kids in the right direction. Any parent can step in and help. Arlen will talk with Jason to see what his plans are for the group moving forward.

CHECK update: John Woods, CHECK representative, states there are 2 bills being watched. HB 2119 involves educational savings accounts. Jennifer LaCourt, who is the CHECK President, did send a testimony to the committee on that bill and we are hoping homeschool families are removed from that bill. There is also a HB 63, which is also still in the senate committee, that we are watching closely. This bill says ACT scores of homeschoolers would be collected by the Department of Education, homeschoolers really want to remain anonymous with the government, and keep them out of our business. We are still waiting to hear whether we need to actively oppose those bills or not. Once they get out of committee, we will know more about what is going on with those bills. We are also meeting virtually with various representatives and senators. John and other SVHE members had a virtual meeting the other night with Clark Sanders. That meeting went really but it would've been nice to have more attend the call and John is sure the representative would've as well. We have another meeting coming up on February 18th with Representative Steven Howe who represents the area East of Santa Fe and areas east of Salina. This area includes Kipp and extends to Solomon. He is a freshman congressman and it would be good for us to introduce ourselves as area homeschoolers that the represents. John encourages all SVHE members to attend the next short call, only about 30-45 mins. It does make a difference. The next call is scheduled to begin at 6:45 pm on Feb. 18th. And Feb. 22th is the last one scheduled for the month.

Jess and Arlen mentioned that some may know Rep. Steven Howe from Cornerstone Classical School in Salina, SVHE students ran on his cross-country team and his wife Tamara Howe is a dance teacher in Salina that instructs many SVHE students as well.

Arlen notes that there may be overlap conflict with Online Child internet safety event scheduled by Leah Graves. Arlen suggested rescheduling the 22nd meeting to Thursday the 25th. Arlen will send an announcement and share the event. Arlen asks Leah to share information on the upcoming Internet Safety class online.

Leah Graves shares that the class is put on by CAPS here in Salina. They are working to educate parents on the dangers that lurk in the internet world for our kids. They have and present great information; Leah really likes the organization in general. Many families she knows have participated in the class and loved it. In the last class there were many technical difficulties so she contacted them. They informed her that if you sign up for the classes, you get a link and

access to the live video recordings for the next 30 days, should they have more technical interruptions. So even if you miss the class, as long as you register, you will receive an email with a replay link. If anyone has to miss the class, it can be watched later and anyone can continue participating in the classes. This will allow everyone to attend both the meeting with State Representatives and the internet safety class.

Webpage update:

Arlen has updated the web page with the help of Dan Peterson. Arlen encourages everyone to check it out. The new update will allow us to do more through the web page. Such as, with the last basketball tournament, he was able to post live score updates through the tournament app that was integrated to the webpage. Arlen will be adding more pictures. Arlen requested that Lane send sports pictures as he gets them, and he will add them to the webpage. Arlen is hoping to add more recent pictures of our group to freshen up the page. Please let Arlen know if there is something on the webpage that isn't working or doesn't look right.

Graduation: Patty Reilly sent an update email to Arlen. There are 6 graduates now and they are working on their videos. They have a speaker for the event and things are coming along nicely. Graduation is on the calendar for May 22nd, 2 pm, at First Covenant Church in Salina. .

Sports: Athletic Director, Heather Day sent an email update. Basketball season ends with the ND2 tournament in Hutchinson, KS on March 4th-6th. After that, baseball will kickoff. We don't have much new information about baseball. Arlen did talk with the baseball coach, Jeff Garretson, and he will be sending information to post to the webpage. Arlen will add information to the webpage for signups and information about practice times and game schedules. Last year was cancelled before their first game because of Covid lockdowns. This year is looking good for them to play games.

Old Business:

Child Protection Policy work has been at a standstill, but we will continue working on that and schedule online meetings with others. The question of a committee being mentioned in the last meeting was brought up. Arlen confirmed that is still the plan. He has reached out to several and has an idea of volunteers, including that Advisory Counsel. Lindi Fahrenthold and her daughter Hannah were a few mentioned . Arlen plans to reach out to Nathaniel Berg, as he feels his background as an attorney would be helpful. He has calls to make and any suggestions for anyone are welcome. He is debating sending an announcement or hand selecting. Leah suggestes people involved need to be carefully selected due to the sensitivity of the topic. Arlen agrees to careful selection. Leah agrees, considering that we are coming from a leadership position that is trying to protect the families within the organization, this is different that many organizations implementing these types of policies. Arlen states his focus moving forward will be working on the Child Protection Policy.

There is presently no new information on the General budget, it will be discussed at the next business meeting.

New Business:

No new business to vote on.

Motion to adjourn by Arlen Redden, John Woods second the motion. All approve, none opposed.

John Woods closed in prayer @ 12:47 p.m.