

Emerson Williams PTO Meeting January 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS

Paula Heinzmann welcomed everyone to the PTO meeting.

PRINCIPAL REMARKS

- ❖ Mrs. Catarius stated that outdoor recess takes place if the temperature is 32 or above.
- ❖ We had a 6th grader win the Geography Bee and he will take an online test to see if he can advance.
- ❖ There was a science expo last week where the kids presented a science project with a hypothesis and it was very impressive.
- ❖ The Hartford Symphony Orchestra held a woodwind quartet for grades 3-5 and the 6th grade instrumental students. It only cost us \$25 this year, when normally \$500 – this was thanks to a grant we had this year.
- ❖ The Pillars of Character Education will begin a new pillar, “Respect”. Every day a quote about respect or how to be a peacemaker will be made over the intercom. Teachers in grades K-3 finished training on responsive classroom.
- ❖ Festival Chorus started for grades 5 & 6.
- ❖ We would like to find out if corporations would do a “match” program to help us buy another SmartBoard.
- ❖ We will be looking into the lifespan of the playground and plan for the future of it. There is a drainage issue which should be part of the “capital improvement” – ten year plan.
- ❖ Doreen Corsair, our Media Assistant, has requested poster paper rolls. The request is for four rolls at a cost of \$508. Robin Bourassa motioned to pay for the four rolls. Kelly Weinberg motioned to accept and Kim Marena seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

SECRETARY’S REPORT -N/A

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Schroeder will print out a reader-friendly copy of the budget for the next meeting. We have received \$400 from the Box Tops. The first installment for school pictures is approximately \$1793.00. The second installment is expected to be about \$842. Apparel sales made \$50. The 6th graders made \$80 on Poinsettia, \$500 on pies, and \$650 on wreaths.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE: Brenda McLaughlin, Reading and Language Arts
Mrs. McLaughlin thanked the PTO for funding the Nutmeg book nominees and providing ten copies of ten different titles for grades 4-6. The students have been very motivated and have been challenging their skills. All books will be passed to classrooms for reading groups in the classroom. She would like the PTO to consider funding this program again next year once the titles are announced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOE Liason- Tristan Stanziale shared that the controversy regarding the superintendent will be reported to the public soon. We are waiting for approval of a federal grant where the state would receive \$175 million and Wethersfield would receive up to \$222,000 over four years. In order to be eligible for it, we would need to sign onto a secondary school reform, which would *1. Increase credits for graduation to 25 credits 2. Require an end-of-year exam and 3. Teachers would attend programs.* We will find out in April if the state received the money from first round. However, we are more likely to receive it from second round in Aug/Sept. The Superintendent budget proposal will be held January 28th.

WSPC - Robin Bourassa and Suneeta Krishnan provided information regarding the improvements to the Gifted and Talented program. Beginning in February there may be a program before and after school, as well as Saturdays from Feb-May for grades 4-6. Topics would possibly include Lego-robotics, science, intro to foreign language, etc...It may be open to all students at each individual school; they are fine-tuning the program now. They are ear-marking one person per school instead of one person visiting one school per week.

A Connecticut survey reported that out of 24 towns, Wethersfield was ranked 6th in education. The teachers' contract is being voted on. The Board recommended and Council has to vote on it. It may be 0% increase for the first year, 2% increase the second year and there is a step percentage if you reach certain levels or how many years of service, then you'll get a little more increase., 3% with an additional 1 ½ %.

HighCrest has a sister school in China. Chinese contingency came four years ago and they're coming back.

First budget forum is a combined announcement between the Superintendent and Town Manager to present the budget together. One meeting will take place on March 16th and one on March 31st, more information will follow.

It is recommended to try to involve students in the committees so they can see the whole process and not just the end result/product. Chairs may want to consider this, especially the 6th Grade committees and Yearbook committee.

Waiting for stimulus package to see if it may reinstate the Rope program.

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation – Poinsettias were delivered to Mrs. Catarius, Mrs. Tomaro, Mrs. Delaripa, Mrs. Ciarcia and Mrs. Corsair (out of the 6th grade Fundraiser). For the Winter Concert, Poinsettias and a flower arrangement went home with Ms. Fox, Ms. Miga and Mrs. Griswold.

Sue Breglio organized the Teacher Appreciation for December, providing Holiday cookies and tea for our teachers. This month Suzan Zadrozny will provide chili and scarves.

Community Outreach – The Lovable Huggable collection is being held this week. In February, we will once again collect home made Valentine cards to distribute to local nursing homes. The students can make them at home and we encourage teachers to allow students to make them during indoor recess.

Enrichment – This year as part of the PTO funded Enrichment budget, Emerson-Williams will be hosting author, Sarah Weeks; the date is scheduled for April 6th.

Kindergarten Handprint- Claudia Miller and Maggie Pierce are waiting to hear back from Mrs. Jahne. She is coordinating with Mrs. Aparo a date/time and the six volunteers are ready to go.

FAMILY EVENTS:

TV Turn-off Week – We are looking for new ideas, however we are currently considering swimming, family night at On the Border, family night at Friendly's, McDonalds, bowling, Get Fit Wii night, and a possible dance party. This will most likely take place after April vacation.

Teacher Softball Game- TBD

Talent Show- We are waiting for date confirmation. It will take place at either the High School or Middle School; in April and includes grades K-6.

FUNDRAISERS:

Big Y – We have earned 186,000 points as of January 6th.

Target- We have 25 Target Red Card holders and we've earned \$93.20

Stop and Shop- We have earned \$147 from our registered card holders

Box Tops- Made approximately \$400 from our collection and the next deadline is March 31st. We will hold a contest and whichever class collects the most box tops will have a popcorn party in May. More details to follow.

Jog-A-Thon- TBD

Strawberry Festival- Looking for carpentry talent/skills to help refurbish old games and need new ideas for new games and stations. Kelly Weinberg may have someone for "artist-like" face painting.

Yankee Candle- TBD

Six Grade Events – A pasta dinner will be held as a social event with possible two-tier times to fit everyone in depending on amount of RSVPs. The yearbook is up can running and they are actively collecting information for the huge class.

Appreciation Week- There has been some discussion on whether or not to schedule

Tiger Topics – Kathy Zapor requested any information that needs to be in Tiger Topic, should be sent to her by Monday evening.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FORUM

- ❖ Mr. Malicki informed us that PENS is used for notifying whole school, not individual classes.

CLOSING REMARKS

Paula Heinzmann thanked everyone for attending. Meeting adjourned.