

Meeting Minutes

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

Date: April 11, 2014

Location: EW Media Center

Meeting Called to Order by: Paul LaPerriere **Time:** 7:02

Officers Reports

Principal's Report – Ms. Thakur

Ms. Thakur passed out a handout about the writer's workshop, which was the focus of the last principal's breakfast

After spring vacation grades 5 and 6 will be attending Camp Woodstock

SBAC will be starting on April 28th

The building is getting some improvements; new front entry doors and the carpeting in the front office is being replaced by tile

Ms. Thakur thanked everyone for the generous support of the EW family in need; 10 large bags of clothing were donated, in addition to \$1328 in cash and \$225 in gift cards; she has also secured 2 free soccer registrations

Secretary's Report – Michelle Bosco

The March minutes were submitted for approval. Martin Malicki motioned to accept. Motion was made to second and the March minutes were voted on and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Holly Dyjak

The C: Whale amount is showing negative because of returned checks

We have added a PTO officer's liability policy

\$100 has been donated to Safe Grad

High Touch – High Tech is over budget so that the third-graders could have the program that all of the other grades participated in

Teacher Representatives – Grade 1 Teachers, Foley, Forst, and Jones

The first graders are in the middle of their poetry unit; they are partnered up with Mrs. Fox, who is giving them instruments to go along with their poetry

In reading they are learning that subjects can be read about through fiction or non-fiction

Some field trips are coming up, such as Northwest Park, and hopefully a trip to the library to get the kids ready for summer reading

They will soon be transforming the classrooms into Camp Read-a-Lot again

The poetry songs showcase is next Friday, May 2 at 2pm; it's put on by the student teacher

Mrs. Jones asked if field trip money will be written back into the budget. The PTO is still waiting for the money from the playscape so the field trip money should be added back into the budget after that money comes in

Mr. Nick Chanese - CCSWP

Mr. Chanese was contacted by Nancy Distolli and is the director of the student writing project and runs a summer writing camp for grades 4 to 9

The camp starts with a one-week Poetry Institute, which starts on July 7, then week 2 will be Creative Writing; deadline to register is mid-June

All the teachers there are CT certified teachers; the student/teacher ratio is never over 10:1

There is a celebration in October

The program is entirely tuition-based but not for profit; they are currently running a fundraiser to raise money for scholarships

All of the anthologies go on Kindle and Amazon

Committee Reports

BOE Liaison - Martin Mallick

No report

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation - Darka Jara

No report

Community Outreach

No report

WSPC

Paula announced that the volunteer recognition award for EW will be going to Paul LaPerriere

The ceremony is on Tuesday, May 13 at 7pm at the Webb school

Sharon attended the town council budget meeting, where the district budget continues to be reduced; cuts had to be made to allow for fixed expenses

The public forum is on April 21 at 7pm at the Town Hall

The Common Core Forum will be on Monday, May 5 at SDMS auditorium

Bike/walk to school day will be held on Wednesday, May 7; flyers will be sent home with information

Sixth Grade - Michelle Bosco

Things are moving along. The 6th grade teachers met with the committee chairs and the principal and dates have been set for Pine Acres, Pine Lake, and Step-Up.

Family Events

Talent Show - Andrea Ginter

The showcase was March 25
There are 35 acts at present
45% of the tickets are sold
There will be assigned seating this year instead of general admission
There will be a staff act

Bingo – Holly Dyjak

Date is May 5th from 6-7:30pm
Admission will not be charged
A flyer will be going home regarding bringing a sweet & salty snack
Holly has enough help

TV Turnoff Week - Leslie Williams

Sunday, May 4th will be the Ron-A-Roll event
Bingo will be held on May 5
Restaurant night will be on May 5
The Rita's fundraiser will be held on May 7
May 8 we will have Dinner on the Lawn, followed by the PTO meeting at 7pm
The talent show is Friday, May 9
She is still looking for a fun event for the last Saturday of the week

Fundraisers

Box Tops

No report

Scrapbooking – Sandra O'Neil

Brought in \$109
Four people showed up, none of which were EW parents.

Labels for Education - Sharon Koziol

We won 5 new books for the library

Mixed Bag Designs – Holly Dyjak

The fundraiser ended today.

Strawberry Festival – Paul LaPerriere/Jackie LaPerriere

Paula suggested changing the name to something other than Strawberry Festival and having the kids vote on a new name
Paul & Jackie are still working on raffle prizes; a list will be presented early so tickets can be purchased early; one of the prizes will be a family of 4 pass for an overnight at Great Wolf Lodge in MA; tickets will be available during TV turnoff week
Some inflatables have been secured

New Business/Open Forum

The budget meeting will be held within the next 2 weeks

The Art teacher has requested \$210 to buy some materials for the Art show; Andrea motioned to do so, Michelle seconded the motion, and the motion was passed via a unanimous vote

If any parents have time to help Ms. Nogueira out prior to the Art show, let her know your availability

Martin announced that the nominating committee is looking for nominees for all positions except 1st year president for the 2014/2015 school year

The check from Dr. Rosenberg that was presented to the PTO at the March meeting was returned to him the next day

Greg Ginter is unable to post anything on the EW website right now; talking about whether it should still exist going forward; someone would have to recreate it from the outside and be a liaison; speak up if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested in doing it or that can give us a price

We have about 175 families "liking" the Facebook page right now

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26pm

Minutes Compiled by: Michelle Bosco, Secretary