

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO**

**Date:** October 9, 2014

**Location:** EW Media Center

**Meeting Called to Order by:** John Kiniry    **Time:** 7:03pm

#### **Guest - Kim Bobin**

Kim was hired with a grant from the state; she speaks English as a second language

She is a family liaison; attendance is part of her job; attendance is a nationwide crisis and is getting worse every year

21% of EW kids missed more than 10 days last year

Ms. Thakur will be greeting kids who missed school the previous day; attendance problems will be sent to DCF

Kids who are missing more than 10 days per year are not reaching goals

kids missed over 1000 days of school at EW last year

#### **Officers Reports**

##### **Principal's Report - Ms. Thakur**

First principals breakfast -26 parents - omelet and casseroles; Darka coordinated - focused on literacy - teach reading and writing...mainly reading. Eaves drop on 5th grade class on novels. High level book discussions. What was author whispering to them...great questions and listeners.

Walk to school day - cancelled on wed - lots of fun and kids/families walking. Sharon and Darka thank you.

Camp Woodstock - 26th through 31st - nervous parents - kids excited - meeting calmed down parents

##### **Secretary's Report - Michelle Bosco**

The September minutes were submitted for approval. John Kiniry motioned to accept. Motion was made to second and the September minutes were approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Address Directory**

The website and Facebook pages were updated; the directory is ready and will be sent to the publishers by this weekend; 4 ads were placed in the directory for a fee

##### **Book Fair - Darka Jara**

did really well & thanks to the volunteers; we did better than last year even though

we had less students than last year; we made \$1800; Darka is considering doing a Spring book fair also

#### **Cheer/Teacher Appreciation - Darka Jara**

Darka needs monthly volunteers. People would be in charge of making something fun for the teachers for the one day.

#### **Community Outreach - Sharon Koziol**

Sharon would like to do this in January or February instead of at Christmas since the need is greatest then

#### **Enrichment**

the price for High Tough High Tech was negotiated down to \$3500; this will start on October 24 with the first one

#### **Media Center**

she is waiting for the room parents to get volunteers; will need readers once per month

#### **Room Parents**

all room parents have been notified

#### **School Pictures**

retake is Wednesday, November 5; we have a contract with LifeTouch for this Spring but going forward we may look into changing companies

#### **WSPC - Sharon Koziol**

They had the movie on the green in September and there was a great turnout, they are looking for feedback

Enrichment programs are being looked at; it seems like Wethersfield is falling short on some programs, such as gifted and foreign language

90 schools scored higher on the SAT last year

Wethersfield Library has a STEM program every Saturday afternoon

#### **Tiger Topics**

Submissions due on Saturday morning; don't send PDFs

#### **6th Grade**

they have the templates for the t-shirts and got the pumpkins donated

### **Family Events**

#### **Holiday Store - Karen Discenza**

Karen has been shopping; the event will take place on Thursday, November 20;

Hoping 200 kids will show up; there is a donation request in for shopping bags; an email is going out for parent volunteers and a request for wrapping paper donations; they have the elf volunteers

**Vendor Night**

committee is meeting soon

**Fundraisers**

**Box Tops**

Will be mailed this Saturday and \$650 worth have been counted so far

**Jog-a-thon - Darka Jara**

Mr. Coursey shared an idea of doing this a different way. Maybe charging \$10/child and doing it in the Spring; kids would get a trophy; cost was discussed

**Labels for Education - Sharon Koziol**

due October 15; currently have 12,000 points; can redeem points for Visa cards

**Yankee Candle - Darka Jara**

Phenomenal results; made \$2200; she is doing it again in the Spring

**New Business/Open Forum**

It was mentioned that some companies make matching gifts for donations  
We need to get the word out to more parents that the PTO has a Facebook page and to check it for announcements since that may be the fastest way to get information.

The PTO website is automatically updated with any Facebook post.

The 6th grade website is a great resource for 6th grade parents

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm**

**Minutes Compiles by: Michelle Bosco, Secretary**