

Meeting Minutes

Emerson-Williams Elementary School PTO

Date: March 12, 2015

Location: EW Media Center

Meeting Called to Order by: Paul LaPerriere **Time:** 7:01pm

Principal's Report – Neela Thakur

Mrs. Thakur passed out the poetry month flyer; Brenda McLaughlin is looking for help with that; the SBAC schedule was also handed out; SBAC will be starting after spring vacation

The floors in the gym and the cafeteria will be replaced this summer

Mrs. Richard's last day is Friday; Jessica Monahan will be subbing

Guests – Martha Conneely & Kim Bobin

Martha & Kim are part of the Early Child Collaborative, which advocates for kids from birth to age 8 to be sure they are healthy, developmentally successful learners and are connected to the community

Recent focus has been on prenatal care, preschool, and body mass index; Wethersfield scores high with inadequate prenatal care, which costs the town later in special services; the number of Wethersfield children in preschool has been steadily declining over the years; the BMI is also rising from kindergarten age to 6th grade

The ECC meets once a month on Mondays in case anyone is interested in getting involved

Teachers – Mrs. Nunn & Mrs. Kardys

They were both recently part of a pilot with a new math program and the one that was unanimously chosen is Go Math; the teachers had to apply to be a part of the program and they listened to 8 potential programs; Go Math is completely aligned with common core and looks for real world application problem solving; they are very excited now about teaching math; they wanted concepts to have more meaning for kids, along with pre and post data collection and progress monitoring; the kids liked parts of this program a lot more; there are manipulatives in almost every lesson

On Monday, March 16th the superintendant will be presenting the budget which includes Go Math

Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report – Michelle Bosco

The February minutes were submitted for approval; Shana Smith motioned to accept; second motion made by Chris Thompson; the February minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Holly Dyjak

Donations increased by \$120; we donated \$100 to Safe Grad; took \$275 out of the budget for the Ron-a-Roll deposit

Shana proposed taking \$75 out of the budget for the poetry night decorations; it was voted on and the motion was passed to take the requested money out of the bank

Committee Reports

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation – Darka Jara

Planning something for March

Media Co-ordination – Shana Smith

Everything is going well

Sixth Grade Activities – Tracy Tine/Karen Dicenso

Planning the pasta dinner for April 10th; Chartwells needs to be there; Pine Acres is scheduled for June 2nd with a rain date of June 5; Sue Breglio is getting the deposit

WSPC – Sharon Koziol

Mr. Emmett attended the last meeting; the new math program was talked about at great length; 3.41% increase in the budget is being requested; parents are encouraged to attend the next meeting; if the vote goes through and the program is purchased, there will be professional development ASAP to get the teachers ready

May 6 is the tentative walk/bike to school day

BOE – Martin Malicki

It looks like the proposal for the new gym floor is going to go through; there are 2 approvals left

Tiger Topics – Chris Thompson

Will be done by Sunday evening

Suggestion Box – Shana Smith

There was a suggestion made for a “Top Turkey” contest; the kids buy a feather for a staff person; the winning teacher wears a turkey costume on the day before Thanksgiving

Budget Committee – open

One will be needed for April; Martin Malicki volunteered

Nominations – open

Leslie will be a co-chair; one other co-chair is needed, along with people for the committee; there is currently one name in for co-president

Family Events

TV Turn off Week – Jackie LaPerriere

The flyers went out for Ron-A-Roll; working on a Poetry night for the 13th; dinner on the lawn is scheduled for Wednesday; April 18th is the talent show

Fundraisers

Butter Braids – Janet Carbo

Pick up is on Monday from 3-6pm; profit made was \$1540

Book Fair – Darka Jara

Will be held during TV turnoff week

Box Tops – Sharon Koziol

\$1002 made so far; Mrs. Moore's class won the contest

Labels for Education – Sharon Koziol

There are 2 contests going on now; need to get labels to the baskets ASAP so that we can get more Scholastic books for the library; this has been the best year yet for Labels for Education

Coupon Books – open

Jog –a-Thon – Darka Jara

Taking place on April 14th during TV turnoff week

Mixed Bags – Leslie Williams

Online sales are at \$89; tomorrow is the deadline for orders and payments; delivery will be three weeks after payment; April 24th is the tentative pick up date

Rock Cats – open

Strawberry Fest – open

Holly Dyjak volunteered to head the committee and Paula, Sharon and Chris volunteered to help

Talent Show – Gisela Perez

Will take place on April 18th

Yankee Candle – Darka Jara

Starts on 3/16 and ends on 4/6

Spring Pictures

Date changed to March 24th but may have to be changed again due to rescheduled field trips

New Business/Open Forum

Martin asked what the policy was for opting out of SBAC; Neela replied that there are no alternate provisions made so the student would need to sit in the same room while the test is being taken and just not participate in the testing

Martin advised the PTO that the teachers have presented a grievance; they want to teach the kids instead of being pulled out of the classrooms frequently for PD, etc.; concerned parents should talk to their child's teachers about the amount of time being spent out of the classroom; the grievance was filed at the February 26th meeting; safety was discussed regarding having subs in the classrooms and whether they know emergency policies, etc.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56pm

Minutes Compiled by Michelle Bosco, PTO Secretary

