



Emerson-Williams PTO Meeting  
Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Minutes

**Call to Order/Opening Remarks**  
7:02 p.m.

Nathalie Trevitazzo/Holly Dyjak

**Officers' Reports**

**Principal's Remarks**

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Welcome and review of the E-W Elementary School Mission
- School goal is to work closely with families and find ways to engage parents more in the education of their children
- Reviewed the SBAC Comparison Chart for 2015 and explained that it represents one snapshot in time
- Reviewed the Science CMTs and stated E-W has respectable Science score. Summarized the results and where we performed above State/District performance levels
- Pleas for PTO help:
  - Parent engagement - brainstorming for ideas
  - Hip Hop Program - at the end of the school year (June). 4 day program - \$1,950. Would like to add an additional performance piece that will most likely run in the \$300 range. Neela to find exact cost so that we can vote at a future meeting.
  - Professional signage (similar to Webb's) - Cost of approximately \$3k. She will take a "field trip" to Webb over the next couple of weeks with a few parents to check it out. Check out the WPS website for photos.
- A great summer with new gym floors, 6th grade hall, TV monitor, cafe floor, and new conference room.

**Treasurer's Report**

John Williams

- Made \$7,813 last year; only purchase so far was for QuickBooks 2015.
- Did we ever bring the Wish List to the table? The consensus was that we have not and that we will start this year.

**Teacher Representatives**

Mary Fox, General Music and Chorus Teacher  
Emily Caravella, Instrumental Teacher

- We had a district wide instrument drive which brought in 28 instruments.
- Ms. Fox and Ms. Caravella stated we should check out their live website.
- They stated that 95% of the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at E-W take an instrument.
- Explained that the Events Calendar hasn't been finalized but can be found on the website.
- The Winter Concert is scheduled for 12/17/15 with a Snow Date of 12/18/15 and the Spring Concert is scheduled for 5/19/16 at 7 p.m.

## Committee Reports

### **Committees**

#### Address Directory

- 40% submission as of now; can submit on ewpto.com; seeking advertisers

#### Birthday Board

- Need volunteers to add children's names to the Birthday Board each month

#### Cheer/Teacher Appreciation

- Welcome Back Lunch was very successful. Gave a \$50 gift card to Mrs. Reynolds, who is expecting a baby. Also, Gretchen retired, and per her request, we donated money to a charity. We need volunteers every month to host the monthly staff appreciation luncheon. There are 63 staff members, so plan on feeding approximately 40-50 at one time. Just supply the food, and there is no luncheon in May since that is Teacher Appreciation month.

#### Enrichment

- Able to secure the \$3,500 High Touch High Tech deal again this year.

#### Kindergarten Handprint Project

- End of the year project in order to give the K students extra time to practice writing their names, which they do below their handprint. More information to come.

#### Media Center Coordination

- Explained what the Media Center Coordinator and volunteers do.

#### Membership

- In today's backpack should have received the PTO Membership flyer. \$7/child or \$10/family. We will also accept during Open House.

#### Pictures

- Scheduled for 10/16/15 with Retakes scheduled for 12/1/15. Light blue background. Explained how everyone's photos are taken in the Fall along with class pictures and that in the Spring we only take photos of those who sign up.

#### Room Parents

- Mrs. Mark's class is in need of Room Parent volunteers.

#### WSPC

- Darka is Co-President of the WSPC this year. There will be a movie on 9/25/15 and Walk to School Day is scheduled for 10/7/15. She spoke of the upcoming BOE Forum and how every PTO will be asked to come up with 10 questions for the BOE candidates. She also mentioned the Math Pilot.

#### Welcome Back Luncheon

- Very successful welcome back lunch provided for EW teachers

### **Chairs**

Leslie Williams/John Williams

Donnelle Bowers

Darka Jarra

Jacqueline LaPerriere

Shana Smith/Janet Carbo

Shana Smith

Nathalie Trevitazzo/Holly Dyjak

Shana Smith/Chrissy Pikos

Leslie Williams

### **Open**

Darka Jara

## Family Events

#### Holiday Store

- 1700 items already purchased and tags removed. Need to purchase 800 more. Holiday Store will involve the 6th Grade Committee as well as Vendor Night. We have not received approval from BOE on a date for use of the building however the store is usually held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. More to come on the final date.

## **Fundraisers**

### Book Fair

Darka Jara/Holly Dyjak

- Set-up is tomorrow right after school. Monday will be Wish List day for the students from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m., and that volunteers are needed, especially from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. when the younger students will be visiting the Book Fair. Monday is only children, Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. (Wed. and Thurs. adults only), and Friday 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. children will have a final opportunity to shop. Take down is Friday right after school.

### Box Tops

Nathalie Trevitazzo

- More to come.

## **Tiger Topics**

### Tiger Topics

Chris Thomson

- We would like to start involving the children in Tiger Topics and to e-mail any suggestions. The idea of printing a limited number of copies was brought up. Other brainstorming ideas included teachers' submissions and the possibility of children writing a small paragraph regarding "what's going on" in the classroom.

## **New Business/Open Forum**

### Instrumental Scholarship

- Shana Smith voted (and Janet Carbo seconded) to purchase two (2) Sound Percussion Kits at \$159.99 each out of the Music Scholarship Fund. The vote was unanimous.

### Voting for Office of Secretary

- Karen Discenso voted (and Janet Carbo seconded) for James Langdo to take on the Office of Secretary for the 2015-2016 E-W Elementary School Year. The vote was unanimous.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Shana Smith brought up 3 wish list items for the PTO:
  - 2 pop-up tents (one for each side of the school) for events such as the Jog-a-thon and Strawberry Festival.
  - Megaphone
  - Stripes - either dry-clean costume and spruce it up or replace altogether. Paula Heinzmann to look into pricing. A guesstimate is between \$500 and \$1,000 to replace Stripes.

It was decided that these 3 items would be voted on at the next meeting.

### **Closing Remarks**

Nathalie Trevitazzo/Holly Dyjak

Adjourn: 8:43 p.m.

**Tiger Topic submissions are due by September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Email to: [tigertopics@ewpto.com](mailto:tigertopics@ewpto.com)**