



Emerson-Williams PTO Meeting
Thursday, November 12th, 2015
Minutes

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Nathalie Trevitazzo/Darka Jara

7:00 p.m.

- Tiger Topics for October and November will be posted on the PTO website by Tuesday after approval by Neela and Nathalie. The copies will be emailed to the webmaster for posting after approvals.
- Strawberry Fest – looking for bigger company sponsors who will provide raffles for this year's event. Now is the time to start working with those companies. Need someone interested in chairing. 6-9 months advance notice for donations. Plea for donations to go out to families.

Officers' Reports

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Family Math Night was held 2 weeks ago. Emerson Williams had the biggest turnout in the district with over 200 attendees. Interactions with children over math games. Evening event worked out well. Looking to hold a different version of math night maybe for literacy or reading in the future.
- Veteran Day assembly – 65 veterans attended morning and afternoon assemblies. The stars on the big flag in the Emerson Williams main hallway were created by individual Emerson Williams' students.

Secretary's Report

James Langdo

- Approval of 10/08 Meeting minutes motioned by Shana Smith. Seconded by Paul LaPierre and approved.
- Two (2) PTO thank you cards read and distributed at the meeting: Allison Reynolds (for the Babies R Us gift card) and Rhea Emmanuel (for the luncheons).

Treasurer's Report

John Williams

- \$1650 donation to PTO from United Way pledges. \$100 donation for Holiday Store.
- \$1305 new inventory
- Move Reserved funds to Unreserved equity
- Student directory was negative but \$500 in donations offset the printing costs.
- Fundraisers:
 - Lyman pies -
 - 6th grade fundraiser –
 - Yankee candle -

Finance Committee

Paul LaPierre/John Williams

- Finance Committee was formed last year with advisory objectives for the bank balance, to recommend what the PTO can do with the remainder that is in-line with the PTO mission. Last year, it was proposed to do what had occurred in the past: spend \$2500 on Miscellaneous and \$2500 on Wish List. Bylaws allow spending of surplus within a timely manner with PTO vote.
- Wish List items need to be in-line with curriculum and the district teaching, meet PTO guidelines, requires a vote, and approval from the Principal.
- A request for wish list submissions was sent to class room teachers only in the beginning of November. Current wish list submissions include: request for new 5th grade teacher for easel; Mr. Bubser requesting Front Row Math program.
- Need more items on the wish list to look at options for items that make the most sense. Wait until January meeting to see what has come in and vote. Reminder to be sent to teachers to submit requests. Class room teachers first. 35 professional staff members should also receive the request then it will be open to parents.
- Submissions for wish list requests should be sent to John Williams and Paul LaPierre.
- An electronic form on the PTO website was created by Chrissy to solicit wish list ideas. It will be available soon.

Teacher Representatives

Mrs. Krish Kosanovich, Speech & Language Pathologist

Ms. Carissa Mierzejewski, School Social Worker

Mrs. Donna Zuber, School Psychologist

- Buddy Bench – eliminate loneliness and foster friendships and resolved issues on the playground. Primarily for 2nd to 4th graders. Showed buddy bench video. Custom made benches. Some communities donate. Webb has one and it was donated by Home Depot.
- Suggestion for the team to work together with Beth Gilbert's 6th grade team to get Buddy Bench. Beth can fill us in on the conversation in the January or February meeting. Have 6th grade students design it. Plaque indicating donation and have 6th graders train the younger kids on what the bench is used for. Students can customize the way they want it maybe with Stripes' colors.

Committee Reports

Committees

Chairs

Address Directory

Leslie Williams/John Williams

- Address Directory is now finished and was distributed.
- Not all families are in the directory despite the reminders that went home first week of school, additional flyers in backpacks and digital backpack, chrome book signups and reminder slips at Open House and EW and PTO Facebook site reminders. Deadline was also extended a couple days.
- A note for next year: families need to go to the PTO site to sign-up and submit new info in the given school year. Families may have gotten confused with the Board of Ed online process. We would still want all kids' names in the directory for class lists even if parents don't want their contact info in the book.

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation

Darka Jara

- October Halloween for staff was a success.
- Karen Dicenso is the November (Monday 11/23) volunteer.
- Volunteers needed for December. Add a note to Facebook or the website – looking for volunteers. Some people might not be aware of the Cheer/Teacher Appreciation lunches. Consider sending a blast email to families.

Community Outreach

Open

- Still open

Enrichment Jacqueline LaPerriere
• High tech / High touch set with Mrs. Woods.

Room Parents Leslie Williams/John Williams
• Room parents selected have been communicated to.

Sixth Grade Beth Gilbert
• Wethersfield Eagles and Emerson Williams gear sale coming soon, in time for Christmas at Vendor Night (12/10). Pre-order hats to sell at later games. Personalized items will also be available. Order forms will be out before December 10th. Room parents will be contacted.

WSPC Karen Dizenzo
• Charles Wright and CCMC pilot program for Flu shots was a success. Proposal to do this for all of the elementary schools.
• Promote walk to school Wednesdays. Each week on Wednesdays to promote walking and exercise but may be difficult for parents each week due to schedule conflicts.
• Web Banners should be considered for Emerson Williams.
• Vote Forum – proposal for every 2 years instead of 4 years.
• Veteran's Day – attend school on veteran's day to have more children involved in Veteran's Day. Some schools are not closed on this day.

Family Events

Holiday Store Janet Carbo/Karen Dizenzo
• Holiday Store will be held on Thursday 11/19 – 5pm-7:30pm. Shift signups available online. Cash box volunteers needed (3) before 4:30pm.
• Last year: 1936 items sold. Over bought last year to have 2750 items purchased for this year, with 500-700 items left over so that children who attend the store in the last 45 minutes will have choices.
• 52 out of 65 children in the 6th grade class have volunteered to be elves for one of the two shifts (early or late shift).
• Beth Gilbert's 6th grade food sale during the holiday store. Some 6th graders will go over to help out at the food sale. Water setup for the elves but will not take away from bake sale.
• Signups are up. Need volunteers to wrap. Gift bag and wrapping papers still needed. Connecticut Dentistry donated bags.
• Followed up on building use form with Joanne McPhee (Board of Education). Form was completed, submitted and approved.

Fundraisers

Box Tops Nathalie Trevitazzo/James Langdo
• Beth Gilbert taking Nathalie's place for Box Tops chair position.
• James to reach out to Beth to work on a flyer for Box Tops. Submit Box Tops 3 times during the school year.

Labels For Education Open
• Still open. Leslie collecting labels

Tiger Topics Chris Thompson
• Tiger Topics submissions due by 11/13 at 11am.

Vendor Night Rebecca Anderson/Nathalie Trevitazzo
• Vendor Night in the gym is 12/10 from 5-9pm. \$25 table fee. Building forms have been submitted. Flyers going out on 11/13. Flyers put in mail boxes for the teachers. Looking for approximately 30 vendors. Contacting vendors that were here last year. 6th grade committee will have table and will sell food. Double checking if they got cafeteria. Added to Rare Reminder.

Yankee Candle

Darka Jara

- Yankee candle orders are in. Darka will be calling for pick-up.

New Business/Open Forum

- DVD's from last year's Talent show have been delivered.
- Brian provided research information for a new Stripes costume and Pop-up tents for PTO review.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Child-sitting for PTO – Neela working on it.
- Karen/Janet – discussed possibility of a February dance (Feb 20th 5:30-8:30pm) for each child to bring one person special to them. Tickets sold as a couple (1 child – 1 adult). Every child invited and bring. Not an income generating event. Every child invited. \$1200 budget for photo booth, DJ, lights and decorations. Leslie mentioned we could use photo booth from student directory (Country Roads). Gym and cafeteria to be utilized. Janet offered to chair the committee.
- Yard Goats event – 5/31. 5th and 6th grade EW students singing national anthem. Organizing ticket sale with Ms. Fox.
- Hip Hop performance - Event pricing – 4 days – \$1950. Assembly performance (\$1350). \$3300 total for 4 days plus assembly performance. \$1950 is same price as last year.
- Family Fun Night – Max capacity of gym and first come first serve. Need back-up plan in case of rain. How many people interested in attending? Neela to look into this. Need to book by end of January.
- Signature Project – Highcrest has held this event. Story teller / musician / artist who creates murals and shows kids how to use stories and signatures to create works of art.
- School banners – Neela working on getting prices.
- Class pictures will be distributed soon. 12/1 is picture retake day.

Closing Remarks

Nathalie Trevitazzo

Adjourn: 8:45 p.m.

Tiger Topic submissions are due by November 13th.

Email to: tigertopics@ewpto.com