



Emerson-Williams PTO Meeting
 Thursday, March 9th, 2017
 Minutes

Attendees

Carreiro, Christina	Mattatall, Colleen	Struk, Autumn
Dee, Peping	Rogalski, Jamie	Thakur, Neela
Gilbert, Beth	Root, Elisa	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
Jara, Darka	Shoham, Monika	Williams, John
Lacy, Mary	Smith, Shana	Williams, Leslie
Langdo, James	Sousa, Christen	

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Darka Jara/Colleen Mattatall

7:02 p.m.

- Thank you to Mrs. Elisa Root (2nd grade teacher) and the EW faculty for providing the food and flowers at tonight's PTO meeting.
- Jim Marcelynas, father of EW kindergarten student Giulia Marcelynas, passed away on March 2nd. PTO will like to do something for the Marcelynas family within this next month.
- Keep in mind the meeting guideline reminders:
 - Talk to and about each other the way you hope your children would speak to or about you (both at the meeting and beyond). Be respectful and kind with your words always, here, and away.
 - Stay on topic. We will use a timekeeper to stay on track but remember the PTO meeting for reporting purposes of what your committee is doing. We don't expect lengthy discussions or conversations. Please curb your discussions or comments for the end or reach out to the chairperson directly after the meeting. You will be reminded or redirected if topic gets turned or time expires.
 - Introduce yourself and briefly explain WHAT your committee does for those new at the meeting.
 - If you must criticize, you MUST offer a suggestion.
 - The Board will clarify rules for voting, explain why we are voting before any votes.

Officers' Reports

Teacher Representative

Elisa Root, 2nd grade staff member and PTO Special Guest

- Flowers and food tonight are in appreciation of the EW PTO from the EW faculty.
- Look for the Good Project - new initiative to run from March 20th – March 31st with the concept of gratitude and encourages us to recognize the people and things that we are thankful for. The student council members will lead the program. There are four components that students will be introduced to:
 - Random acts of kindness cards to students and staff.
 - Look for the Good Spot – step on the spot and say what you are grateful for.
 - Posting notes on the Gratitude Wall located near the nurse's office.
 - Write a gratitude letter to share with someone that you are grateful for.
- Website: www.lookforthegoodproject.org.
- Leslie Williams will add to Tiger Topics this month.

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Thank you to Elisa Root for presenting the Look for the Good Project and being a leader on the project. Neela is also on the committee leading the project with Mrs. Root (2nd grade teacher), Ms. Charbonneau (5th grade teacher), Ms. Mierzejewski (EW School Social Worker), Mrs. Nunn (4th grade teacher), Mrs. Richard (EW Art teacher).
- EW community mourning the loss of Jim Marcelynas, father of EW kindergarten student Giulia Marcelynas. Giulia is a student in Ms. Dawson's class. The tragedy involving the Marcelynas family has been very difficult for the family and staff. Ms. Dawson's class has cut out red felt hearts with their names on them to add them in a Build-A-Bear for Giulia and her brother James. Ms. Dawson's class created 3 weeks' worth of meals to provide to the family. EW chair is organizing effort to provide gift cards for the family. A GoFundMe page is also available for donations.
- Category 1 – 5 school rankings – EW was ranked as a category 1 school this year. Only 2 schools in Wethersfield were ranked as category 1, EW and Hamner. Hamner was also a school of distinction because of the substantial growth from last year to this school year. Four indicators (4 out of 12) at the elementary school level were used to make this distinction: academic achievement, academic growth, chronic absenteeism, and physical fitness scores. Connecticut Next Generation Accountability System website lists all schools and their ranking. We are proud of our school for this achievement.

Secretary's Report

James Langdo

- Approval of 2/2 Meeting minutes motioned by Shana Smith. Seconded by Autumn Struk and approved pending two corrections (Darka's name in the attendees' section and including Nathalie Trevitazzo and Courtney Harlow as PTO Expo attendees).
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank you to PTO and Wish List Committee from:
 - Mary Lacy & EW Staff – for the two-way radio to be utilized by the 4th Grade Team during fire drills and evacuations.
- James setup a Dropbox for all committee files. Committee chairs should contact James for access to any of the committee folders.

Treasurer's Report

Peping Dee

- Income:
 - Someone Special Dance – payments to vendors (\$-694)
 - Strawberry Fest – sent payment to several vendors (\$-1850)
- Expenses:
 - Renewed insurance – \$255
 - STEM Enrichment payments – \$2500
 - Cleaning Mats - \$389.76
- Net income: \$-884.50
- Total assets: \$46,053.14

Committee Reports

Committees

Chairs

- Bingo Night Beth Gilbert/Diana Iannucci
 - Successful night with good turnout. No shortage of prizes. Snacks and water bottles provided to attendees.
- Beautification Committee Monika Shoham
 - Paint the pavement space area behind the Kindergarten class when the weather is warm. Late April or May during a weekend to allow drying time. Need a few volunteers. The design has been sketched out. We will use porch and floor paint. Pavement needs to be power washed and cleaned before painting.
- Book Fair Vacant
 - Need a book fair chair volunteer for the fall. Plans should be finalized for the fall book fair by June because the fair is held in September during open house time. Darka will show the new chair how it works. Leslie will add to Tiger Topics.
- Budget Committee (3/19) Peping Dee
 - First meeting to plan budget for the 2017-18 year. Peping extended an invitation to everyone to join the budget committee on Sunday 3/19 7pm.
- Creative Arts Deidre Sassano
 - Shana Smith reporting for Deidre. Picasso program coming in April.
- Dance (3/18) Janet Carbo
 - Autumn Struk reporting for Janet. Everything is ready for the dance next week. Decorations purchased. Food will be purchased next week. Tickets are due tomorrow but has been extended to Monday. 4pm start time is necessary due to the performers attending this year and to allow for more photo booth opportunity.
- Family Fun Committee Colleen Mattatall
 - Beth Gilbert reporting for Colleen. Book Swap & Board Game Night in April. Possible Friday 4/28 date. Your Friendly Family Tabletop Shop, store on New Britain Avenue in Newington, would like to come to EW and do a family game night. They will bring the games. Strategy and thought provoking games. Attendees can drop in and don't have to stay for the entire time. Games for older as wells as younger kids. Suggestion of board game night and ice cream bar in the cafeteria with a book fair in the gym. Promote the book fair to build up reading collection before summer.

- Kindergarten Handprint Rebecca Anderson/
Monika Shoham
 - Completed. Parent volunteers helped during the event. Two children from Ms. Dawson's class were not present. We will go back for the remaining 2 students.

- Kindergarten Lunch Helpers Peggy Collette
 - Christen Sousa reporting for Peggy. Peggy volunteered to chair next year. Co-chair is needed if anyone wants to help organize the lunch helpers with Peggy. Christen is on the committee and will help organize.

- Nomination Committee Darka Jara
 - 2 people needed to chair committee. If you are on the nomination committee, you can't run for a position. Leslie will add this to Tiger Topics.

- Room Parents Autumn Struk/Diana Iannucci/
Shana Smith
 - 4th grade held the successful teacher luncheon in March.
 - 5th grade to hold the April luncheon on Friday 4/7. 4/7 is the same date as the Picasso program. Possible art theme for the luncheon.

- School Pictures (April) Diana Iannucci/Shana Smith
 - School pictures in the Spring on Thursday 4/20. More details to come. Field trip for 5th grade is on the same day from 9:30-1:30pm. Shana will figure out how to get the 5th graders into the schedule by working with Neela. Neela will talk to the 5th grade teachers.

- Strawberry Fest (6/10) Autumn Struk/Colleen Mattatall
 - New date is 6/10 10am-2pm. Building use form approved. Setting up the night before. Ticket prices established. More fun and games this year.
 1. Entertainment vendors booked: Sound Spectrum (DJ) and Extravaganza Entertainment (inflatables).
 2. Committees established:
 - Face painting – Monika and Amy
 - Food – Janet. Need 1 more
 - Cake Walk – Fran
 - Vendors – Rebecca
 - Raffle – Beth and Diana. 2 separate raffles but winner must be present to claim prize. Will not hold prizes this year. Nathalie donated 2 items received from the PTO Expo to raffle at the Fest.
 - Prizes – Shana
 - Strawberries and whip cream committee needed.
 3. 2 people for dunk tank – Mr. Emmett and Officer Bob. ½ hour time for the dunk tanks.
 - Notes went out to high school honor society, 6th grade volunteers, room parent volunteers, and to incoming kindergarten parents. Sign up genius created.
 - Save the Dates have been made – just need to distribute.
 - Business sponsorship will be started in the next couple of weeks.
 - Apparel could be sold or raffled (suggestion by Leslie and Beth). We have leftover baseball hats that need to be sold.
 - Spring Vendor Fair – suggestion by Autumn to incorporate into the Strawberry Fest. Bring in Vendors but keep in mind focus of the Fest is the kids. Could try it this year and if it doesn't work won't do it the following year. The vendors would setup everything themselves.

- Talent Show (5/3) Christina Carreiro
 - Emerson Williams Shining Stars Talent Show on 5/3 at 6pm - 7:30pm. 16 acts (5 minutes per act) from Kindergarten to 5th grade. Dancers, singers, spy game, gymnast, piano, and others. 2 auditions/rehearsals. Have 5 volunteers. Building use forms have been submitted.
 1. Art section will be on display (working with Mrs. Richards).
 2. Younger siblings of the acts will create signs to display in the audience.
 3. Need an MC for the event. Christen mentioned she will talk to her husband to volunteer as MC. Possible 6th grade volunteer.
 4. All kids to decorate the school. Can use stars from last years' dance.
 5. Flyers to go out. Kids to do the art work for the program.

- Tiger Topics Leslie Williams
 - March issue finished next week and published the following week. Copies to go out by Monday 3/20. Still needed: principal, PTO president, nurse, upcoming events, school reminders, volunteers for sign up genius, and thank you messages. Deadline on the 3/12. Can also send digital copies of flyers or just the dates for publication.

- TV Turnoff Week (5/1 - 5/7) Jamie Rogalski/Colleen Mattatall
 - Events during the week of 5/1 - 5/7. Activities will be sent to Leslie for Tiger Topics. Puerto Vallarta on Monday night. Yoga on Tuesday. Talent show on Wednesday. Dinner on the Lawn on Thursday. Bowl-a-Rama on Friday. Pavilion at Mill Woods on Saturday. Walk with family and friends on Sunday. Flyer will be created. Building use forms need to be submitted.

- Wish List Beth Gilbert/Christen Sousa
 - Finished with wish list for this school year.

- WSPC (3/9) Vacant
 - Chair is currently vacant. Meetings are held second Thursday each month from 12-2pm. Didn't have a meeting in February due to the blizzard.
 - Parent Awareness Seminar - was held on 3/8 and sponsored by WSPC.
 - Volunteer recognition awards – date is Wed 5/10 7pm at Webb. Volunteer recognition from each elementary school, middle and high school. Beth Gilbert received an award in 2015-16. Nominate someone who has done a phenomenal job. Award flyers will be available next week in the school office. Nominations due by 4/20 with a silent vote. Form will be sent to Leslie for Tiger Topics.
 - Community awards - if you have someone in mind, let Darka know for next WSPC meeting on 4/6.
 - Town Council Budget Meeting - Emerson parents going to Town Council on 3/20 at 7pm.
 - Discussed the current Cottone Field (WHS) turf issues. Town issue.
 - Lacrosse – trying to determine how many people are interested.

Fundraisers

- Box Tops for Education Beth Gilbert/Christen Sousa
 - Mrs. Harris' 3rd grade class won the Box Tops Contest with 265 box tops collected. Each student in the class won an Emerson-Williams drawstring back pack. Mrs. Laskowski's 2nd grade class came in 2nd place with 224 box tops. A total of 2,998 box tops (\$299.80) was collected by the entire school.

- Butter Braids (3/14-3/28) Darka Jara
 - Flyers to be started next week

- Mixed Bags (2/24-3/10) Darka Jara
 - Extend date. 4 free items to be donated for raffle (various bags).

New Business

- Yard Goats Baseball Game
 - Need volunteer to run with the idea for group sales. Leslie will add to Tiger Topics. 5/21 6:35pm date. Determine if date would work with Yard Goats then create the flyer. Event tracker already created. Doesn't need to be a fundraiser. Tickets \$9 if you sell over 100 tickets.
- Town Council Meeting (3/20 7pm)
 - Town Council meeting on 3/20 7pm. Beth sent out letter to member of Town Council to support the budget for next year. Need as many EW families at the town council meeting as possible. Can speak at the beginning and at the end of the meeting (open forum). 1 person needed to represent Emerson. Families will stand-up at the meeting to show support for the budget.
- Erica Mcgregor Benefit (4/25)
 - Erica is a parent of an EW 2nd grade student. She needs a kidney transplant. Hosting a Dining for Dollars fundraiser at Bertucci's on 4/25 in Glastonbury and Newington. Coordinated with National Donate Life Month in April. A flyer will be distributed that tells her story on one side and Bertucci's on the other side of flyer. This will be an awareness campaign and we will distribute flyers to all the schools. Glossy flyers will be handed out at the Newington Bertucci's.
 - Sell signs at cost to try to raise awareness.
 - Connections with news outlets to get articles written. Printed articles (Wethersfield Life) as well as any television news connections.

Open Forum

- NEXT PTO MEETING – 04/20/2017 @ 7PM
- Cyber Seminar (3/8) – Monika reported on the event. Would be great to do this at EW. Cost was \$1000 with Scott Driscoll and Detective Mendez. FBI Agents would come into the school at no cost.
- Keane Foundation – they had a meeting to get all elementary schools on same page when time to apply for grants to choose a universal program. Program coordination will save money. Darka will provide the next meeting date if anyone is interested in attending.
 - Autumn – would like to attend and discuss the Color Run. Colleen to give Barb Ellis' contact information.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 9:13 p.m.

Darka Jara/Colleen Mattatall

**Tiger Topic submissions are due by the Sunday after the PTO meeting.
Email to: tigertopics@ewpto.com**