



Emerson-Williams PTO Meeting
 Thursday, June 8th, 2017
 Minutes

Attendees

Alegre, Tanya	Conashevick, Stephanie	Gilbert, Beth	Nunn, Katie	Smith, Shana
Anderson, Rebecca	Corwin, Jennifer	Iannucci, Diana	Palazzo, Tina	Struk, Autumn
Banahan, Tom	Cunningham, Rose	Jara, Darka	Pikos, Chrissy	Struk, Jeff
Burlingame, Amy	Dee, Peping	Kardys, Jenn	Polmatier, Karen	Sullivan, Alison
Burnell, Nilsa	Dellaripa, Jonathan	Kulpa, Johnna	Rivera, Jessica	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
Caravella, Emily	Dellaripa, Rhonda	Lambert, Ulrike	Rogalski, Jamie	Vardal, Julie
Carbo, Janet	Dreger, Heidi	Langdo, James	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Williams, John
Carreiro, Christina	Dukes, Christine	Lucas, Alex	Schwarzhaupt, Mike	Williams, Leslie
Caserta, Stacy	Fleming, Paige	Mattatall, Colleen	Shoham, AJ	Wodecki, Gina
Collins, Matt	Gallagher-Cuadras, Amy	Mattatall, David	Shoham, Monika	

Call to Order/Opening Remarks

Darka Jara/Colleen Mattatall

7:02 p.m.

- Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's events successful. The PTO is grateful for everything that everyone has done to make the group stronger.
- Thank you to 2nd Year Co-President Darka Jara for the past 2 years of service to the PTO.
- 5 members of the EW staff are leaving (4 retiring and 1 re-locating). PTO will sign cards and will give gifts to these staff members.
- 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

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur (absent)

- Neela will not be available for the meeting. She is attending her daughter's very last Chorus performance of her high school career. Her daughter is graduating from WHS on 6/16 and will attend Berklee College of Music in Boston beginning in the Fall.
- **Budget Update:** As of this time, there is no real budget update to share. It is still very unclear as to where the \$500,000 cut is coming from. All of the Principals will be meeting with the Superintendent on Monday morning, and then there is a BOE meeting on Tuesday night. If you wish to understand more about how specifically the cuts will be made to the budget, I would encourage you to attend the BOE Meeting this coming Tuesday night. We are hoping the cuts will only be this \$500,000, but they could potentially be more than that.
- **EW Retirements:**
 - Mrs. Mary Fox - General Music and Chorus
 - Mrs. Kathy Harris - Grade 3
 - Mrs. Donna Forrest - Grade 3
 - Mrs. Kathi St. Onge - Content Area Curriculum Specialist
- **EW Resignation:**
 - Mrs. Annie Buckley - Grade 1 - Relocating because her fiancé just got a new job.
- **EW Grade Change:**
 - Mrs. Keel is moving from Kindergarten to Grade 3
- **EW Name Change:**
 - Ms. Foley got married. Her name for next school year will be Mrs. Copland.
- Grade 1 and Grade 3 positions will be filled by other existing teachers from within the school district.
- I will hire over the summer:
 - A new Kindergarten teacher.
 - A new Music teacher.
 - A new Content Area Curriculum Specialist
 - (At present time, I am not permitted to begin any interviewing because of the budget uncertainties.)
- THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! to all of you for your hours and hours and hours of volunteering, support, and dedication to our school. I am so grateful to have such a wonderful parent community here at EW. I am so appreciative of all you do for me, my teachers, and our students. It truly takes a village, and I could not do this work without your support all year long. I am excited about next school year! I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Secretary's Report

James Langdo

- Approval of 5/11 Meeting minutes motioned by Autumn Struk. Seconded by Chrissy Pikos and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank you to PTO from:
 - Mrs. Ciarcia (Nurse) – for the flowers for nurse's day and the mixed bag
 - Maria Intino – for the candy and flowers
 - Mary Lacy – for the roses and Bridgewater chocolates
 - Kady Allen – thank you from former EW student for the EW PTO Scholarship. Attending Clark University in the fall majoring in education

- Mrs. Jones (1st grade) – for the teacher appreciation in June and throughout the school year and for the Readers’ Theater books
- Ms. Foley (1st grade) – for purchasing the Readers’ Theater books
- Ms. Buckley (1st grade) – for the Readers’ Theater books
- A Dropbox is available for all committee files. Committee chairs should contact James for access to any of the committee folders.
- Open 2017-18 committee list will be distributed at the meeting for signups.
 - We will need 5-10 volunteers to be part of a copy crew to make copies for flyers. A copy would be sent to the copy crew and someone from the team would make the copies and distribute in the teacher’s mailboxes.

Guest Speaker (10min)

Mrs. Katie Nunn (Grade 2) /
Mrs. Jennifer Kardys (Grade 4),
Book Club

- Thank you for the school wide book club at the beginning of the school year. Thank you plates to the PTO have been added to the inside of each book.
- Children made pictures and notes and completed projects based on the books. Thank you cards from the kids were passed around to the PTO.
- Leadership team overwhelmingly wants to do this again next year. Voting for next year’s books is now in progress. Books next year relate to the school goals for next year: accountability and responsibility. Activities will be created to go along with the books.
- Books would be more expensive next year. \$3.24 per book. Books available through Amazon but can save money with educator’s card. 8 copies of 4 books will be needed (1 for each grade level and 1 for the library). PTO had allocated \$400 for the books for this year but only \$82 was spent because the books were purchased through Scholastic.

Treasurer’s Report

Peping Dee

- Income:
 - Talent Show - \$248.51
 - Yard Goats - \$411
- Expenses:
 - Creative Arts Council - \$1644
 - 6th grade activities - \$1700 since last meeting
 - Heart Rate Monitors - \$5000
- Net income: \$-14,555.32
- Total assets: \$32,382.32

Committee Reports

Committees

Chairs

- Assemblies (10/10) Monika Shoham
 - Internet Safety Presentation (10/10 3pm) – for teachers and parents. Advertising for the event will occur in September. Daycare will be provided. Ex-FBI police officer will do the presentation about internet safety. Event has been booked and contract signed. \$1000 for the presentation and paid on the day of the presentation.
- Color Run (9/30) Autumn Struk (Volunteers needed)
 - Amy and Autumn helped coordinate a Keane Foundation Grant for EW. EW received a \$3000 grant from Keane for Color Run. The event is scheduled for 9/30 rain or shine. There will be a DJ and food trucks. The event is in the planning stages. Signup is going around. Kids will be part of the planning, including naming the event. The committee will choose the top 3 names and then the kids will vote.

- Cheer-Teacher Appreciation (6/1) Darka Jara/Autumn Struk
 - Teacher appreciation day for June was held on 6/1. Dip day for the teachers. Sponsored by several parents. Colleen thanked everyone for the decorations.

- Nomination Committee Shana Smith/Leslie Williams
 - Shana Smith and Leslie Williams to count votes when voting for new co-president

- Room Parents Autumn Struk/Diana Iannucci/
Shana Smith
 - Enjoyed the room parent committee this year. It is very important to be involved with the kids. Almost every month parents were in the classroom doing things with the kids.
 - Grade 1 and Grade 4 Picnic will be held at Mill Woods – two separate picnics.

- Strawberry Fest (6/10) Autumn Struk/Colleen Mattatall
 - The event will be held on Saturday 6/10 with a focus on fewer volunteers this year, so that volunteers can spend more time with their families. 12 volunteer spots still open. 1 ticket for raffle for volunteering.
 - Carnival games will be different this year. We will bring a couple of the older carnival games out from last year. Location guides will be distributed. More spacing of games.
 - Thank you to committees and volunteers:
 - Subcommittee chairs and their teams –
 - Vendors - Rebecca Anderson
 - Face painting – Monika Shoham & Amy Gallagher-Cuadras
 - Food – Janet Carbo & Jamie Rogalski
 - Raffles – Diana Iannucci & Stephanie Conashevick
 - Prizes – Shana Smith
 - Cake Walk – Fran Schwarzhaupt
 - Flyers – Fran Schwarzhaupt & Christen Sousa
 - Pucker Powder – Kathy Centurelli and Amanda Roman
 - Strawberries – Christina Carreiro & Nathalie Trevitazzo
 - Fred Bushey and the Town of Wethersfield for supplying 20 tables for outside and the fencing.
 - Jimmy Discenza who will be here on Saturday supporting the event.
 - Principal Neela Thakur for supporting us.
 - All of the teachers and staff volunteers.
 - Events sponsors: Tammy Erickson, Conroy Orthodontics, Jerry's Art-a-Rama, Cross Automotive, and Atrinity Home Health.

- Tiger Topics Leslie Williams
 - Sunday 6/11 deadline for May/June issue. Send to Leslie for publishing items in this month's Tiger Topics edition. Advertising section for next year.

- WSPC Darka Jara
 - Day and time will be determined for the fall.
 - Movie on the Green (9/22) – Minions.

Fundraisers

- Jog-a-thon (6/1) Darka Jara / Leslie Williams
 - Donations (online or sent in) were made to the school for the Jog-a-thon event. EW received \$1387 in donations:
 - 1st place - Holden Gallagher (Mrs. Keel's Kindergarten class) - \$350 in donations. He won a free family admission for 2017 Strawberry Festival.
 - 2nd place – Ethan Shoham (Mrs. Keel's Kindergarten class) - \$185 in donations. He won \$10 worth of raffle tickets for the Strawberry Festival raffle baskets.
 - 3rd place – Haley Williams (Mrs. Harris's 3rd grade class) - \$130 in donations. She won a \$10 gift certificate towards the 2017 holiday store coming in November/ December.
 - 4th place – Christian Mesias (Mrs. Root's 2nd grade class) - \$110 in donations. He won a gift certificate or \$10 worth of free books at the 2017 Scholastic book fair coming in September.
 - Thanks to everyone that volunteered.

New Business

- Vote: 1st Year Co-President
 - Autumn Struk / Nathalie Trevitazzo. Autumn Struk was elected as new PTO 1st year Co-President. PTO gave Autumn a box of Munson's Chocolates to welcome her to the board.
 - Autumn thanked everyone for coming out to vote tonight and thanked everyone for working together to make the school a great place for our kids.
- Photo Booth Update Colleen Mattatall
 - Photo booth company did not provide service or return money. A report was filed and consumer protection report was filed. Contact Colleen to help to pursue to get the \$549 funds back for the PTO.
- Dollars for Scholars Darka Jara
 - Kady Allen presented with EW scholarship. Darka presented her with the \$500 PTO scholarship. Kady is a former EW student. She wrote a letter thanking the PTO for the award.
- Teacher's Lounge Autumn Struk
 - The lounge will be decorated in late June or early July. Autumn has been making purchases for it. The purpose is to create a relaxing, fresh, nice place for teachers. Anyone with artistic ideas, please let us know. We can hang items on the wall but can't paint from floor to ceiling.
- Book Swap – PTO would like to have this event in the fall. Beth Gilbert to chair event.
- Modell's Sporting Goods – EW would get 5% of what families spend at the store. This will be discussed more in the fall.

Open Forum

- Next PTO meeting is Thursday 9/14 7pm.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 8:11 p.m.

Darka Jara/Colleen Mattatall

Tiger Topic submissions are due by the Sunday after the PTO meeting.

Email to: tigertopics@ewpto.com