



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, November 08, 2018

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Hernandez, Andrea	Shoham, Monka
Burlingame, Amy	Mattatall, Colleen	Sousa, Christen
Conashevick, Stephanie	Pikos, Chrissy	Szczepanski, Anna
Dee, Jr, Peping	Root, Elisa	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
Gilbert, Beth	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Zaparanick, Melissa
Harlow, Courtney	Serignese, Melissa	

Welcome

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

- Introductions made around the room.

Chrissy Pikos

Secretary's Report

- Approval of 10/11/2018 Meeting minutes motioned by Chrissy Pikos. Seconded by Beth Gilbert and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank-you cards from:
 - Grade 3 & 5 teachers -- for the Welcome Back Luncheon.
- A Dropbox is available for all committee files. If you are a chair, please make sure you have access to your committee's file. If you do not, please email secretary@ewpto.com to notify me that you need access.

Fran Schwarzhaupt

Treasurer's Report

- Copies of treasurer's report provided and reviewed.

Amy Burlingame

Principal's Remarks

- Neela is presenting at the Superintendent's Parent/Staff/Student Recognition Ceremony and will not be at tonight's meeting. Awards given to Autumn Struk, Carissa Mierzejewski, and Grade 6 students Amish Bhattarai and Anxhelika Deda.
- District wide food drive from Nov. 7– Nov. 16. All Wethersfield schools participating. Goal is to stuff a bus on the 16th.
- Oct 23rd BOE meeting spoke about how Phase 1, the facilities assessment and enrollment projection, is completed.
- Phase 2 is the Options Development phase, which will determine if there will be combining schools, demolition of school(s), and/or renovations school(s). With 100% certainty, redistricting will be involved and will most likely happen a few years down the road.
- Phase 3 will be the Refinement of the Preferred Option.

Ms. Elisa Root

- Phase 4 will be the Marketing of the Project.

PTO Teacher Liaison

Ms. Elisa Root

- Habits of Mind continue with Listening with Understanding and Empathy.
- At the Oct 29th town hall meeting, each grade picked a student who represented this habit of mind.
- The Winter Concert is on Dec 13th.
- American Education week will have parent visits on Nov 16th and Nov 19th.
- Nov 21st is a half day of school and spirit day/comfy day.
- Dec 21st is also an early dismissal day and spirit day/hat day.

Committee Reports

- **Website**

Chrissy Pikos

- sick procedure on website
- Need someone to run website next year if interested

- **Student Phone Book/Directory**

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Books delivered in all of the teachers mailbox, except for 2 classes. Those will be distributed on Monday.

- **Picture Day**

Chrissy Pikos

- Distributed on Nov 1st. Retakes scheduled on Nov 15th. Issues with some class photos but has been resolved.

- **WSPC**

**Amy Burlingame/
Colleen Mattatall**

- State Commissioner of Education resigning on Jan 1st. New Governor to vet candidates for approval, will take approximately 6 months.
- Board of Ed has not begun school budget for next year. So budget is operating in black, no deficit, no budget freezes.
- New building use form is online only now.
- Mr. Emmett interviewing for Webb and Middle school principals. Webb has a candidate to start in Jan.
- Walk to School happened last month.
- Courageous conversations program offered to a few staff members which address your inherent biases and examining it. Opens conversations among faculty and families. Wethersfield is becoming an increasingly diverse community and socioeconomic differences could affect a child's learning, etc.

- **Board of Ed**

**Colleen Mattatall/
Peping Dee**

- Focus was on the Facilities Study. BOE has deferred maintenance on schools for so long that systems have become obsolete. Example: CW heating system is made by a company that went out of business in the 1980s so parts and repairs are very costly.
- EW needs new roof, double paned windows are cracked, classrooms have original furniture, some which are damaged or rusted, etc.
- Overall cost to update schools is \$31.7 million for all schools, \$17 million of which is high priority and needs to be done w/in next 3 years (regulatory concerns, physical environments and safety).
- EW has \$7.1 million of that overall total, making us second to Highcrest in needing money for repairs. But our repairs are 3rd in line of priority to CW and Hanmer.
- Current enrollment at EW is at 90% and anticipated to increase to 93% in 10 years.

- CW is 104%, projected to increase to 112%.
 - Highcrest is 96% and projected to increase to 102%.
- **Movie Night** **Yesenia Fuentes**
 - No report at this time.
 - **Tiger Topics** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Please email updates to tigertopics@ewpto.com by 5pm on Sunday Nov 11th.
 - Send articles in by Monday.
 - Pushing cultural corner. Any family who would like to write about their culture, email tiger topics.
 - **High Tech/High Touch** **Peping Dee, Jr**
 - All programs confirmed for this school year. Negotiated fee for \$250 less than originally quoted for a total of \$4095. Following dates are: Dec 17th for Grade 4, Dec 19th for Grade 1, Jan 28th for Grade 5, Feb 14th for Grade 3, March 14th for Grade 2, March 15th for Grade K, and March 27th for Grade 6.
 - **Holiday Store**
 - Date set for Nov 29th with 2 shifts starting at either 4:30pm and 6pm or 5pm and 6:30pm. Ending time at 8:30pm.
 - Promoting 2 shifts, each with the same amount of gifts stocked, with hopes of less crowding.
 - 6th grade committee selling baked goods, pizza and drinks.
 - Volunteers needed for set up and take down, cashiers, and gift wrappers. Sign up genius to go out.
 - **6th Grade Committee**
 - Next fundraiser is poinsettia, wreath and kissing balls.
 - Kids signatures done and t-shirts ordered.
 - Wood pallet fundraiser on Nov 26th - need more exposure on website.
 - Pie fundraiser raised \$1600.
 - **Cheer committee** **Autumn Struk/Colleen
Mattatall/Yesenia Fuentes**
 - Planning a big teacher luncheon on December 5th.

Fundraisers

- **Paint Night**
 - \$943 raised. After supplies deducted, estimated about \$500 total.
- **Yankee Candle/Butter Braids/Cookies**
 - Due tomorrow November 9th. Delivery will be first or second week of December.
- **Scoops & Sprinkle** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Friday Nov 16th from 330p-9p.
 - Celebrity scoopers will be there!
 - Weekend of Dec 1 -2 between 12pm-9:30pm, raise your sales day.
- **Puerta Vallarta Night** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Scheduled for December 3rd. 20% of sales go to PTO.

New Business

- Cultural Night Committee formation motioned by Chrissy. Seconded by Rebecca and passed.
- Copies of By-laws distributed. Decision to review and vote on by-laws revisions tabled to next meeting.

Open Forum

1. Discussion regarding prizes offered for selling items during Yankee Candle fundraiser. In the past, prizes were not offered in Wethersfield School District. In February, BOE changed policy which currently says nothing on whether a school can or cannot participate selling for prizes.
2. Idea possibility for cultural night or arts grant: Hawaiian dance storytelling and the positive message it conveys.
3. Idea expressed regarding participating in Wolfpack Reading program called Read to the Rink, where free or discounted tickets are given away and a visit with Sonar.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 810pm

Chrissy Pikos

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