



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Hernandez, Andrea	Struk, Autumn
Burlingame, Amy	Mattatall, Colleen	Szczepanski, Anna
Carriero, Christina	Prestia, Gina	Thakur, Neela
Conashevick, Stephanie	Root, Elisa	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
Dee, Peping	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	
Healy, Chris	Smith, Sarah	

Welcome

Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Autumn Struk

Secretary's Report

- Approval of 11/09/2018 Meeting minutes motioned by Colleen Mattatall. Seconded by Sarah Smith and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank-you cards from:
 - Grade 3 Mrs. Keel's class for Big Joe chairs.
 - Grade 5 teachers for luncheon
 - Grade 4 teachers for luncheon and gifts.
 - Maria Intino and Mary Lacy for Book Store gift cards.
 - Ms. Root, Mr Shoemaker, and Mrs. Laskowski for Grade 2 wish list items.
 - Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Yatrousis, Ms. Ganci, Ms. Charbonneau, Mrs. Jahne, Ms. Emmanuel and Ms. Root for gifts.
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Fran Schwarzhaupt

Treasurer's Report

- Copies of treasurer's report provided and reviewed.

Amy Burlingame

Principal's Remarks

- Tuesday, January 8th, was the Principal's Breakfast. The two presenters were Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Granitini. The topic was the shift in how we are teaching science in the school district. Google NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards.)
- Managing Impulsivity is the next habit of mind the school is focusing on for the month of January. Please practice at home with your children. See article.

Neela Thakur

PTO Teacher Liaison

Elisa Root

- Book Club book for Jan and Feb is *My Mouth Is A Volcano* by Julia Cook. Talks about thinking before speaking which goes along with this month's habit of mind.
- PBIS community focusing on school wide expectations. Teachers are handing out Tiger Tickets. A child receives a ticket if they follow an expectation and is recognized for it by a teacher, staff member or another student. The child fills out name and class on ticket and drop off in marked class slot on bulletin board. Names are then drawn for each grade and then child gets to pick a reward for their class. This exercise not only helps students but also reminds teachers to focus on positivity.
- 12 days of giving, teachers collected money for a family of 6 in need. \$400 collected and gifts brought for the family for the holiday.

Guest Speaker

Christopher Healy

- Elected 1 year ago to BOE, lives in Old Wethersfield.
- Most important issue currently for BOE is ongoing assessment of schools.
- Reminder that there is a cyber seminar presentation free at Webb School on Jan 24th.
- He is co chairman of policy committee (how schools are conducted) which is updated frequently per state laws. Recent goal met for all kids to have chrome books. Next is policy on cellphone use for kids and staff while in school. There's not a uniform policy among our schools. Have been investigating policies from other schools in CT (like Bristol and Shelton which are towns similar in size), all over the country and France. Hoping to have a policy proposal made in the next month. Will invite public to comment.
- Chealy@wethersfield.me or chairmanhealy@gmail.com.
- Volunteered be a dunkee at SF and participate in Jogathon.

Committee Reports

Website

Autumn Struk

- Need someone to run website next year. If interested, let Chrissy know.
- Will not do website next year so someone please sign up!!

Vendor Night

Rebecca Anderson

- 23 vendors, more high end sellers vs. direct sales.
- Bake sale was wonderful and vendors liked the snack area.
- Highest sales ever done.
- This year there were more outside families vs. EW families.

WSPC

Amy Burlingame/ Colleen Mattatall

- Free Cyber Seminar presentation with Scott Driscoll on January 24th at 6:30p Webb Auditorium. It's for parents only. Scott already presented to grades 4-12.
- WSPC wants to do town wide Screen Off Week for all elementary schools April 29th - May 5th.
- WSPC Volunteer Award Ceremony is May 15th at 7pm at Webb Auditorium. Think about a volunteer you'd like to nominate.
- Feb 12th Mr. Emmett to present BOE budget and approval mtg set for March 15th.
- BOE mtg Jan 22 at the middle school.
- Renovations of portables at Highcrest is hoping to be refunded by state.
- Custodial position (former Fred Bushy position) is filled.
- School day will be expanded by 15 minutes per Mr. Emmett, worded as instructional time extended by 15 minutes. This happened during teacher negotiations and to be officially approved at next BOE meeting.

- Start with Hello program in September.
 - School enrollment demographics are available on district website.
- **Board of Ed** **Colleen Mattatall/
Peping Dee**
 - See WSPC notes.
 - Mark Danaher (high school counselor) talked about shadow program. 2 high school students followed an actuary around at Travelers and decided to pursue that career due to this great experience.
 - There's a shadow program at the middle school also. Maybe take EW career day to the next level for our 6th graders.
 - Potential partnership with Goodwin College and WHS.
 - Sally Katz discussed painting of our schools, looking for volunteers.
 - ACM company- Mr. Emmett wanting to include this company to help boost interest in aerospace industry. This industry is booming but not enough kids interested and pursuing to study it.
 - **Room Parent** **Autumn Struk**
 - See new business
 - **Tiger Topics** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Please email updates to tigertopics@ewpto.com by 5pm on Sunday Jan 13th.
 - **Cheer Committee** **Autumn Struk**
 - Teacher Luncheon on Dec 5th, Thanksgiving theme. Loved by staff.
 - Next one is on Feb 13th, Devil and Angel brunch theme. Healthy food vs bad goodies.
 - **Cultural Night** **Elisa Root**
 - Set for March 8th.
 - Ms. Root and Mrs. Pulino involved.
 - 12 countries will be represented, 3 classes want to participate. Looking for music and staff to participate.
 - Looking to set tables with info, photos, etc ? food of each country.
 - Children will have passport booklets to stamp as they go around each table.
 - **6th Grade Committee** **Nathalie Trevitazzo**
 - Jan 25th medium reading still has a few open spots.
 - March 15th bus trip to Mohegan casino. Leaves at 6pm from school and 12am leaves the casino. \$35 per person (includes meal voucher and 2 gambling tickets.)
 - Puerta Vallarta night planned, date TBD.
 - Possibly using different ropes course this year, yearbook in progress.
 - **Talent Show** **Christina Carriero**
 - Scheduled for Feb 8th at 6pm. Tickets \$2 for adults, EW kids free. 47 kids participating, 24 acts, 20 pieces of art to be displayed. About 90min for the show. Refreshments will be for sale. Teachers Lucas and Kardys to mc and Root to dj.
 - **Someone Special Dance**
 - Lots of conflict with dates, ? Saturday May 18th evening or March dates possible.
 - **By-laws** **Autumn Struk**
 - Looking for volunteers to join committee, need to update, review, and approve by next school year.

- **Beautification** **Autumn Struk**
 - Due to school facilities study, courtyard project off the table.
 - Now renovating bathrooms. 6th grade bathrooms to be done first. Phase 1 paint gray box around mirrors (all bathrooms will be done so base work completed) on MLK weekend. Phase 2 will involve posting inspirational quotes in 6th grade bathroom during Feb vacation.
 - Volunteers are welcomed!

- **Holiday Store** **Autumn Struk**
 - Waiting on receipt that needs to be submitted.
 - Check basement closet regarding inventory left over.
 - Lunch bag size gift bags were great for gifts, wrapping took too long.
 - 2 shifts worked well.

Fundraisers

- **UCONN Game**
 - Held Saturday Jan 5th. 72 tickets were sold. \$2 profit for each ticket sold at \$14 so the PTO made \$144.
 - EW student Sophia Barbara sang National Anthem.

- **Munson's Chocolates**
 - Going out end of February.

New Business

- **Gratitude Rocks** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Last year Keene foundation funded \$500 for this project. Rocks and all supplies brought to decoupage. Room parents will be invited to use for classroom project so that all children can make a gratitude rock. For kids to take home.

- **Family Fun** **Autumn Struk**
 - There's \$2000 in budget for this committee. Cultural night part of family fun and needs \$500. Dance and Talent show part of this committee also. If there's any family fun ideas you have, reach out to Autumn.

- **Volunteers for Screen Free Week** **Amy Burlingame**
 - WSPC will take lead in coordinating town wide. Need EW point person so if you're interested, let Amy know.

- **Bike to School Day** **Amy Burlingame**
 - Scheduled for May 8th. Need point person, let Amy know if you're interested.

- **Grant Submission** **Autumn Struk**
 - Tabled in November. Thank you to Melissa and Colleen for all the work you did!

Recommended Motion

- Solar panel money raised \$1100. Colleen Mattatall motioned to move this money to general fund. Amy Burlingame seconded. Motion passed.

Open Forum

Thank you to Mrs. Fortuna for the wonderful job done at the winter concert.

Closing Remarks**Autumn Struk**

Adjourn: 8:59pm

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