



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, March 14, 2019

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	McLaughlin, Brenda	Struk, Autumn
Burlingame, Amy	Pikos, Chrissy	Szczepanski, Anna
Conashevick, Stephanie	Sousa, Christen	Thakur, Neela
Mattatall, Colleen	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Trevitazzo, Nathalie

Welcome

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

Autumn Struk

Secretary's Report

- Approval of 02/07/2019 meeting minutes motioned by Christen Sousa. Seconded by Neela Thakur and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank you from Mrs. Ciarca for flowers.
- Thank you from Mrs. Hutter for baby gifts.
- Thank you from Mrs. Copland for baby gifts.

Fran Schwarzhaupt

Principal's Remarks

- The fourth Habit of Mind the school is learning this month is Striving for Accuracy and Precision. From March 11th to April 18th. Parents please help your children at home practice this habit. "The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes" is the book club book of the month that goes along with this theme.
- Great job Chrissy and all the families who helped with Cultural Night. Exceptional night! One of the best events ever held at our school per Neela, teachers, and many others!
- Check out the website Edsight.ct.gov. It has results of SBAC scores of all schools and tons of other info. On the BOE website, there is a link of Sally Distolis' power point presentation in pdf file and video of presentation explaining the scores.
- State of CT takes last May's SBAC scores and using complicated formula, rates each school in CT. Reasons for rating: 1. Tracks how schools are doing, 2. Helps pinpoint major areas of concern, 3. Shows which schools need help and recognizes success, 4. Transparency, 5. Tracks proficiency of students and, in CT, also follows growth (some states do not follow growth).
- Categories ranked 1-5. Best score is 1, worst is 5. This is the 3rd year the ratings are done.
- In 2015 -2016, EW and Hamner were category 1. In past 2 years, EW fell to category 3. This year, EW missed category 2 by .4 of a point.
- In ELA, students ranked slightly below average but in math, we were significantly behind.

Neela Thakur

- A general rule is that below state average is concerning.
- If a student is more than 18 days absent, this is chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism needs to be less than 5% of student population and EW is fine in this category.
- In PE, we were low scoring also.
- Math growth was the most glaring issue. ? Go Math started the year we went down to cat 3. One more year with Go Math contract so ?renew this resource.

Guest speaker

Brenda McLaughlin

- April is national poetry month.
- Brenda would like help to mount poems on construction paper and hang in school hallway during the month of April.
- Wednesday May 22nd will be the Afternoon of Poetry at 315pm. Help needed with set up of refreshments and serving drinks. All children who write poems in mailbox get invitation to participate.

Treasurer’s Report

Amy Burlingame

- Copies of treasurer’s report provided and reviewed.

New Business Reminder: no new topics mentioned at this time.

Committee Reports

- **Wishlist**

Christen Sousa

Wish List 2018-2019

Date / Teacher	Item	Amount
9/20/2018 Kindergarten Team	Photo Keepers for new phonics curriculum cards	\$497.53
9/21/2018 Mrs. Pulino	Bilingual Books languagelizard.com	\$295.05
10/7/2018 Mrs. Ciarcia	Paper shredder	\$91.99
10/17/2018 Ms. Florio	Fluenz Spanish 1, 2 & 3	\$298.00
10/26/2018 Mrs. Keel	2 Big Joe Aloha Chairs	\$149.78
10/31/2018 Mrs. Corsair	5 jumbo sized die cuts	\$207.50
11/26/2018 Mrs. Laskowski	Gel writing boards	\$114.34
11/27/2018 Mr. Shoemaker	Privacy Boards & Toobaloo Feedback phones	\$100.08

11/27/2018 Ms. Root	Privacy Boards & toobaloo feedback phones	\$92.23
2/8/2019 Mrs. Charbonneau	Lost and Found Rack and Hangers	\$182.91
2/28/2019 Ms. Root	Donors choose	\$139.00
2/28/2019 Mrs. Kardys	Donors Choose	\$ 258.00
	total	\$2426.41

- **WSPC/Board of Ed**

**Colleen Mattatall/
Amy Burlingame**

- Freight train service to start in April. Freight train to travel twice a day thru Wethersfield. No set time so concern for safety due to walking route for children. Gates will not be placed or crossing guards. Only stop signs. Train will only be going 10mph. Whistle will be blown. Operation lifesaver curriculum for train safety to be provided.
- BOE budget approved approx. \$57 million dollars.
- June 17th last day of school if no more snow days.
- Walk/bike to school May 8th.
- Screen free week April 29th to May 5th.
- Sandy Hook Promise to say hello involves social inclusion. Ideas being explored on how to implement in schools. More to come.
- Volunteer Award on May 15th. Nominees need to be a parent. Notices sent home.
- Movie on the Green set for Sept 13th rain date sept 27th. End of summer reading party from library to be done during movie on the green.
- Sarah Harris (Instructional IT supervisor) will be working with parents and staff. Email Support@wetherfield.me for google classroom help.
- March 29th there will be 2 assemblies for students by Becky Granitini to provide train safety.
- Anonymous alert app for kids to report bullying and potential acts of self-harm in SDMS and WHS. Over the weekend, kids will be asked to call 911 vs using app. Used in West Hartford and Newtown. Problem noted is repeated false reports.

- **Box Tops**

**Christen Sousa/Fran
Schwarzhaupt**

- Collection ends tomorrow. ? At end of school year, send reminder to save box tops over the summer. Amy provided sheet that listed products that had box tops. This sheet is found on box tops website.

- **Tiger Topics**

Chrissy Pikos

- Please email updates to tigertopics@ewpto.com by 5pm on Sunday March 17th.

- **Website**

Chrissy Pikos

- Volunteer still needed so please reach out to Chrissy if you're interested.

- **By laws**

Chrissy Pikos

- Review meeting on March 20th 7pm at Panera. All are welcome.

- **Cheer Committee** **Autumn Struk**

 - Jimmy's wife had a baby girl and gift sent. Mr. Dalke had shoulder surgery and blanket gift delivered.
 - See thank you cards also.

- **Cultural Night** **Chrissy Pikos**

 - 15 participating cultures.
 - ESL table and creativity table.
 - 125 Passports sold out in first 20min.
 - Performances went well. Free raffle.

- **6th Grade Committee** **Nathalie Trevitazzo/
Stephanie Conashevick**

 - Mohegan bus trip coming up. 2nd bus almost full.
 - March 28th Yoga Night. Flier will be coming out.
 - Chiptole fundraiser, escape room, flower sale possible fundraisers.
 - Kids to go to Empower on June 5th.

- **Dance Committee** **Christina Carreiro**

 - Fliers went out today. Tickets \$5 per family. Date set for May 31st. Snack table. Hollywood theme, red carpet. There will be a DJ and photo booth.

- **Pictures** **Chrissy Pikos**

 - Monday April 29th. Sibling pictures allowed.

- **High-Tech, High-Touch** **Peping Dee**

 - Grade 2 (58 children): Magnet Makers on 03/14/2019
 - Kindergarten (62 children): Weather or Not on 03/15/2019
 - Grade 6 (75 children): Vibes on 03/27/2019

- **Family Fun** **Autumn Struk**

 - Friday May 3rd there will be a Paint Night for families.
 - Over \$1500 left in budget.

- **Community Outreach** **Rebecca Anderson**

 - Going to run over 2 weeks.
 - Collection bins for K-2 in main office hallway, other grades in main lobby.

- **Strawberry Festival** **Autumn Struk**

 - Need a chair person by March 29th or event will not occur.

- **Beautification**

 - Girls 6th grade bathroom to be completed tomorrow. Boys 6th grade already completed.
 - Other student bathrooms will be painted also.

Fundraisers

- **Munson's Chocolates** **Autumn Struk**
 - Raised \$1516.82
- **Yard Goats** **Autumn Struk**
 - May 19th. Flier coming out shortly.
- **Mixed Bags** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - April 15th to 26th.
- **Main Street Creamery** **Autumn Struk**
 - May 1st during Screen Free Week.

New Business

- **Next Year's Board** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - 1st year co-president needed. Stephanie and Christina on nomination committee.
- **2019-2020 Budget** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Meeting on March 31st at 830am Panera.

Open Forum

Rebecca inquired about Vendor Fair discrepancy from February's meeting. Amy provided financial paperwork to Rebecca and board members. Question also raised about location of PTO Corporate Binder and auditing of PTO records.

Closing Remarks

Autumn Struk

Adjourn: 8:38pm

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