



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, May 9, 2019

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Harlow, Courtney	Shoham, Monika
Burlingame, Amy	Mattatall, Colleen	Struk, Autumn
Conashevick, Stephanie	Pikos, Chrissy	Szczepanski, Anna
Dee, Peping	Root, Elisa	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Williams, Leslie

Welcome

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

Autumn Struk

Secretary's Report

- Approval of 04/18/2019 meeting minutes motioned by Nathalie with correction of Courtney Harlow added to attendee list. Seconded by Peping and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank you card from Barbara Cordone for purchases for occupational therapy department.
- Thank you card from Linda Ciacia for Nurse's day gift.
- Thank you card from Maria and Mary for Administrative Associate Day gifts of plants and tote bags.
- Thank you card from Carissa Mierzejewski (Social Worker.)
- Thank you card from Emily and Katie for music department purchases.

Fran Schwarzhaupt

Principal's Remarks

- Neela unable to attend tonight because she is picking up her daughter from college (2nd year at Berklee.)
- Free breakfast being provided to all students on May 8, 13, 14 15, 16. Paid for by the WPS Business Office and State Funding.
- On May 8, the number of students utilizing the free breakfast went from 35 to 87.
- SBAC going well, ELA portion completed. Mon-Thur next week will be the math portion.
- Our school psychologist, Liz D'Amato, will be leaving EW and going to Glastonbury Middle School next year.
- Mr. Jason Moriarty (currently long-term sub for Mrs. Copland) will also be leaving EW going to work in Brooklyn, CT as a Grade 1 teacher.

Elisa Root

Teacher Liason

Elisa Root

- Book, *What Do You Do With A Chance*, by Kobi Yamada is the book club book that goes with habit of mind of taking responsible risk.
- Friday May 24th is early dismissal and spirit day. Wear red, white and blue. No school Monday in honor of Memorial Day.
- Staff loved luncheon!
- May 30th will be Afternoon of Poetry at 3:45pm.

New Business Reminder: Audubon Society and copy rules.

Committee Reports

- **Afternoon of Poetry**
 - During week of May 13th, invites will be sent to poetry writers. Volunteers needed to help with sending invitations.
 - On Tuesday May 28th, around 930am, volunteer needed to help organize poems, seating, etc.
 - Afternoon of Poetry will be 3:15pm on May 30th
- **Beautification** **Autumn Struk**
 - All bathrooms are completed. Special thanks to Monika who freehanded each design!
- **WSPC** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - May 15th Volunteer Recognition Award at Webb School. Leslie and Autumn will be presenting award to Chrissy. Open to the public. There is also one community award and the Keane Foundation is the winner this year.
 - Bike/Walk to school was on May 8th. WSPC distributed \$10 gift cards to the crossing guards.
 - Movie on the green will be on Sept 13th rain date is Sept 27th
 - Mr. Emmett talked about professional development days for teachers and BOE is looking to add 4 half days in school calendar.
 - BOE passed budget but town council asked for new budget with 1/2-2 million dollar cuts. Parents provided thoughts like combining school buses to reduce budget.
 - SMDS roof is almost completely repaired.
 - Anti-vap detectors installed in some of the bathrooms in high school.
 - Train service to start on June 3rd.
 - Starts with Hello program is about social inclusion. Mr. Emmett spoke with Wethersfield principals in each school on how to implement this idea. More info to come.
- **Board of Ed** **Peping Dee**
 - Meeting this Thursday. Similar things to WSPC.
 - There was a question regarding the cell phone policy and whether there is a 4th amendment violation regarding taking student phones and searching it. Hoping to resolve and role out policy in September. Policy for high school staff and students. Not applied to elementary teachers and students.
 - Side note of interest: All nontenured teachers get termination letter at end of school year and rehired for next year as long as budget approved.
- **Tiger Topics** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Please email updates to tigertopics@ewpto.com by 5pm on May 12th.

- **Cheer Committee** **Autumn Struk**
 - May 6th was teacher luncheon, dips and apps theme, loved by the staff. Monetary and food donations were greatly appreciated.
 - May 8th was nurse's day and flowers with mixed bag given to Mrs. Ciarcia.
 - Principal day was on May 1st same gift given and same gift given to Maria and Mary for administrative associate day.
 - Cultural boxes handed out to all staff with book marks, candy and \$5 gift card during teacher appreciation week.
 - Rest of teacher fund distributed.

- **6th Grade Committee** **Nathalie Trevitazzo/
Stephanie Conashevick**
 - Apology that dinner on the lawn did not happen.
 - Tuesday May 14th Chipotle fundraiser 5pm-9pm.
 - Towels to be arriving this week.
 - Step up date on June 11th at SDMS.
 - Pine acres and Empower events coming up.

- **Pictures** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Pictures completed on Monday April 29th. Sibling pictures also done.
 - Leslie to follow up with Ted regarding personal issue.

- **Family Fun** **Autumn Struk**
 - On Friday May 3rd was Paint Night. There were 90 participants.
 - Committee purchased head phones with microphone which was great and now any committee can use.
 - Brainstorming for next event which may possibly be in fall.

- **Community Outreach** **Rebecca Anderson**
 - May 13 - May 24 "Packing the Pantry."
 - Flyer sent out in back packs today.
 - Collection baskets for K-2 in main office. Grades 3-6 in main hallway. Student council will make posters around school and will make sure appropriate items are in appropriate baskets. ? staff basket next to other baskets or in staff lounge.
 - All donations will go to the Wethersfield Food Pantry.

- **Strawberry Festival** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Will be on Friday June 7th 5p-8p.
 - There will be a cake walk in caf. No other parts of school will be accessible. Port a potties will be outside.
 - DJ, inflatables, some games, dunk tank will still be there and outside.
 - This will be more of a school event vs community event.
 - Ticket increments of \$1 and will be used for all things.
 - Mr. Emmett to do dunk tank, along with Mrs. Kardys, Officer Bob and a cadet also.
 - Volunteer slots will be 1.5 hours to reduce number of volunteers. Looking at 6th graders to help also.
 - Catherine Rose helping cochair with Rhonda and Colleen for SF and heading up cake walk.
 - Stephanie still collecting items for raffles.

- **Dance** **Stephanie Conashevick**
 - Will be on May 31st 5p-8p.

- Tickets \$5 per family. Hollywood theme this year.

- **Budget 2019-2020**

Amy Burlingame

- Focus was more on family fun events and reducing amount of fundraisers.
- Note made to discuss Room Parent Fund for the future.
- Question asked about difference between Teacher Fund and Teacher Appreciation which is teacher fund provides gift card to teachers and Teacher Appreciation can be any show of appreciation to teachers.
- Clarification of 6th grade budget. *6th grade donation* is \$42 x # of 6th grade students expected next year. This amount of money the EWPTO will donate to 6th grade committee. *6th grade activities* is an estimate of what the 6th grade committee will spend on yearbook, activities, etc for the 6th grade students.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Burlingame

- Copies of treasurer's report provided and reviewed. Yoga night is correctly listed on the budget sheet (\$225) to clarify from what was reported verbally last month.

Fundraisers:

- **Yard Goats**

Autumn Struk

- Sunday May 19th 1:05pm.
- 131 tickets sold at \$13 per ticket. PTO gets \$3 of the \$13 for a profit of \$393.
- Tickets to come out next week.

- **Mixed Bags**

Chrissy Pikos

- Ended on May 3rd but will continue online until July 31st.

New Business:

- **Next Year's Board**

Chrissy Pikos

- 1st year co-president needed. Stephanie and Christina on nomination committee.

- **Wethersfield SEPTO**

Amy Burlingame

- Special Education PTO with focus on special needs kids. More info to come.

- **Copy Rules**

Chrissy Pikos

- Neela requested PTO to make copies before or after school because teachers have limited time to make copies during the day.
- Next year, hoping to reduce on number of copies that are distributed to families so trying to figure out a way to get info out without paper copies. Any ideas are welcome!

- **CT Audubon Society**

Stephanie Conashevick

- Based out of Old Lyme. This program touches upon next generation of science and math standards. ? check this program in addition to HTHH teaching. Offers variety of programs. Ms. Root to check with teachers and see if they would be interested.

- **Hip Hop Family Night**

Autumn Struk

- Will be on Wed June 12th 5-630pm. All families can come and dance!

Vote:

- **School Items Presentation and Vote**

Autumn Struk

- **Tables:** Request to purchase 10 6ft long white tables at the cost of \$34.99 each (at ace hardware) for total of \$349. Colleen made motion to purchase tables at said price. Peping seconded and motion approved.
- **Cones:** Request to purchase 20 individual 18in orange cones from Walmart at a price of \$23.50 per cone for total of \$470 plus shipping. Peping motioned to purchase cones for up to \$500. Amy seconded motion and approved.
- **Recess bins:** tabled to June to see if Neela will buy bins besides recess equipment (everything but hula hoops.) Colleen to follow up with Neela. ?recess fund for the future budget (of \$500)
- **Hula hoops:** Request to purchase 1 set of hula hoops for \$38.47. Motion to purchase by Peping and seconded by Anna. Motion passed.
- **Flags:** Request to purchase 193 United Nation flags for \$770.88. Tabled for June meeting.
- **Flag pole:** Needs to be scraped and repainted. Autumn received word that pole has lead paint which is chipping off. Courtney to contact Historical Society regarding refurbishing pole. Autumn to follow up with Paul Shoening. A motion was made by Colleen to allot up to \$2000 for flag pole refurbishment. Amy seconded motion. Motion passed.
- **Office shredder:** Cost is \$1724 to buy thru amazon. Motion to purchase made by Amy and seconded by Stephanie. (Nathalie, Courtney and Colleen agreed for the first time ever that this should be a BOE purchase!) Motion denied.

Open Forum: Mrs. Dalke looking for volunteers for field day. No field day t-shirts this year. PTO purchased coolers and they are ours, not donation to school.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 9:42pm

Autumn Struk