



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, June 6, 2019

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Harlow, Courtney	Smith, Sarah
Burlingame, Amy	Mattatall, Colleen	Struk, Autumn
Conashevick, Stephanie	Pickard, Laurel	Szczepanski, Anna
Collete, Peggy	Pikos, Chrissy	Trevitazzo, Nathalie
Dee, Peping	Root, Elisa	Thakur, Neela
Gallagher-Cuadras, Amy	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Williams, Leslie
Gilbert, Beth	Shoham, Monika	

Welcome

Call to order at 7:06 p.m.

Autumn Struk/Chrissy Pikos

Secretary's Report

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Approval of 05/09/2019 meeting minutes motioned by Colleen with correction of Amy Gallagher-Cuadras removed from attendance list. Seconded by Leslie and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank you cards from: Mrs. Peggy for goodie box & DD gift card; Jen Errickson, Rhea Emmanuel, Diane Snow (physical therapist at EW) and Grade 5 teachers (Woods, Charbonneau, Lucas) for staff appreciation lunch/goodies; Kathryn Galusha for scholarship money; Mrs. Yatrousis' and Root's classes for the bathroom art.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Burlingame

- Copies of treasurer's report provided and reviewed.
- Heidi to assist with Safe Grad donation.
- Big Y, for the month of March, designated EWPTO as their school PTO of the month. For every reusable bag sold, Big Y donated a \$1 back to EWPTO, which totaled \$72. Stop&Shop did the same thing in the month of April for a donation total of \$76.

Principal's Remarks

Elisa Root

- Neela unable to attend tonight because she is at the BOE special budget meeting.
- Thank you to the PTO for everything you've done and especially Autumn.
- Possible proposal request for new projector and screen. Estimated cost is \$18,000 and hope to have in fall. Current projector and screen outdated, does not work well, lots of glitches, has to be in front of gym but wires run to back and is a hazard. A company (Valley Communications) recommended by BOE came in to suggest what to do. Jeffrey Telk is still looking into it.

? to Neela is how often will this be used (ex: assemblies, town halls, end of year functions. Per Ms. Root possibly used 10x year.) ?PTO to cover cost.

- For 6th grade committee, Paul Schoening states we cannot do memorial tree for Haylen due too much upkeep.
- Neela now present at our PTO meeting. Take aways from tonight's BOE budget meeting - HS French teacher is back, \$118,000 from this budget to buy chrome books for next year, elimination \$105,000 of school supplies, elimination of 1 reading tutor district wide, extra-curriculars are back on, and reducing HSA contributions.

Teacher Liason

Elisa Root

- Mrs. Dalke and Mrs. Hutter are back.
- Spirit day tomorrow is crazy hair day.
- Spirit week is next week: Move it Monday (extra recess), Team Building Tuesday, Walt Disney Wednesday, Thursday Lunch on the Lawn/Field Day, Footie Friday (kickball championship.)
- Monday June 17th is the last day of school and it's early dismissal.

Guest Speaker:

Laurel Pickard

- Part of PEP group, doing community service around Wethersfield.
- Asking any Wethersfield resident to do 15 acts of kindness over the summer and will get a certificate. This is the first initiative, will do others. Trying to grow social media connection with all PTOs in town. Any ideas, please share. On website has 100 ideas of acts of kindness. Goal is to spread a little joy. Flier going out tomorrow.
- On IG, FB and website.

New Business Reminder: ? when vote for by laws occur. Currently waiting for more info regarding the by laws.

Committee Reports

- **Tiger Topics**

Chrissy Pikos

- Please email updates to tigertopics@ewpto.com by this weekend.

- **6th Grade Committee**

Nathalie Trevitazzo/Beth Gilbert

- Empower day yesterday. Great program, very encouraging for the kids.
- Pine Acres was cancelled and moved to next Wednesday.
- Step up next Tuesday.
- Class gift was to be a memorial tree in honor of Haylen, who was the sister of a 6th grader but town denied this request. ?other gift ideas.

- **Community Outreach**

Rebecca Anderson

- Collection completed by Friday of Memorial Day weekend.
- Filled 3 plus shopping carts of an array of stuff. Many parents found it very easy to participate. Many felt it was a great collection.

- **Afternoon of Poetry**

Anna Szczepanski

- 27 poets, some bilingual.
- Great event, EW student played piano , set up like a living room.
- Afternoon of Poetry will be 3:15pm on May 30th

- **Dance** **Autumn Struk**
 - On May 31st 5p-8p. Spent \$1000 (part of family fun), earned \$300 in ticket sales.

- **Strawberry Festival** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Will be on Friday June 7th 5p-8p.
 - Cafeteria will house cake walk, no other access to school. There will be port a potties.
 - Bring your own dinner, no other food except strawberries.
 - Free to get in, all tickets \$1. Same ticket for all events.
 - Tremendous support from Wethersfield Cadets.
 - Raffle is smaller, don't need to be present to collect prize.
 - All set with volunteers.

- **WSPC** **Amy Burlingame/Colleen Mattatall**
 - Nothing to report.

- **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 - 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.

Old Business:

- **Next Year's Board** **Autumn Struk**
 - Rebecca Anderson nominated for 1st year Co-President. No other nominations added. Rebecca accepted.

- **Wethersfield SEPTO** **Amy Burlingame**
 - Brand new PTO for town of Wethersfield.
 - Amy and Sharon Silbo are co-presidents of this PTO.
 - There's a website, kick off in September. Amy will keep us posted.

- **Flag pole** **Autumn Struk**
 - Gagnon Painting and Hartford Building contractors asked for lead report and none available per Paul Schoening.
 - Not a priority per Paul due to water leakage in windows at school.
 - ? lead exposure is health risk to families and town responsibility to fix.
 - Per Neela, Paul wrote email re: encapsulating pole and then Sally Distoli wrote email saying town will pay for cost.

New Business:

- "We Are All Wonders" is title of book regarding message about kindness, acceptance.

- 9 copies of books requested by Neela. At \$11.59 per book, cost is \$104.31. There is \$58 left from Scholastic dollars from book fair that can be possibly used. Monika to follow up. Autumn to possibly fund other half.

Vote:

- **School Items Presentation and Vote** **Autumn Struk**
 - **Recess bins:** we need for grades 2-6. \$255 motion made by Colleen to purchase, seconded by Sarah. No discussion, vote approved.
 - **New recess equipment:** \$210.36 to purchase thru amazon. Tabled until later next year.
 - **Flags:** Cost to purchase United Nations Flags is \$770.88. Fire marshall inspected caf and said we could hang 25 flags from ceiling away from sprinklers and then others would be hung around the perimeter of caf. ? asked regarding how to clean, upkeep the flags. Beautification committee to be in touch with Neela with possibly framing flags.
- **Budget 2019-2020**
 - Sarah motioned to vote on current proposed budget, Peping seconded. Vote approved.
 - Rebecca motioned to change and reduce Vendor Fair to \$400, Courtney seconded. No discussion. Vote approved.

Another nomination was announced for Beth Gilbert as co-president. Paper ballot vote completed. Autumn and Sarah counted votes. Beth won and announced as next year's co-president.

Open Forum:

- ? regarding using copier machine. Possible for PTO to use before or after school. Speak with Mary who will help/leave us the key to copy machine.
- ? date of first PTO meeting in Sept.
- Color run sept 28th
- Stop and Shop school rewards money goes to general school fund, doesn't get ear marked for a particular thing. Examples of things brought are recess bin, notebooks, money for children who can't afford field trips etc.
- ? BOE allowing teachers to ask for supplies next year due to budget freeze.
- Rebecca read tribute to Nathalie.
- Chrissy read tribute to Autumn.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 9:37pm

Autumn Struk