



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

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Harlow, Courtney	McLaughlin, Brenda	Smith, Shana
Burlingame, Amy	Hill, Kevin	Pikos, Chrissy	Struk, Autumn
Carreiro, Christina	Keel, Emily Shea	Root, Elisa	Szczepanski, Anna
Conashevick, Stephanie	Lesser, Ken	Schwarzhaupt, Fran	Thakur, Neela
Dee Jr, Peping	Mattatall, Colleen		Zaparanick, Melissa

Welcome

Chrissy Pikos/Rebecca Anderson

Call to order at 7:06am

Secretary's Report

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Approval of 10/10 meeting minutes was motioned by Shana Smith. Seconded by Courtney Harlow and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank-you cards from:
 - Thank you cards distributed.
- 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.
- All committees, please email me for any fliers or info you would like me to include in Tiger Adventures.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Burlingame

- Copy of budget as of today also provided and reviewed.
- Balance sheet requested to come back and provided.
- Family Fun listing accounts for Yard Goats tickets.
- Checks written for Dollars For Scholars, nutmeg books and media center purchases. 6th grade ordered t-shirts. Color Run adjusted to repay Autumn.

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Ken Lesser introduced from BOE.
- There's a new reading assessment called BAS (Benchmark Assessment System.) Assessment is done in October and May. BAS test has 2 main parts but it's basically a one on one assessment. Blue hand out refers to questions that are asked during BAS. You could ask your child these questions to help them prepare. Ask your child's teacher what level they are at so you can ask appropriate questions. Teacher checks for accuracy while child reads and then comprehension questions are all done orally. The teacher then uses this assessment to group the kids in classroom instruction. Teachers are looking for the instructional level which is the level that's appropriate for the child to advance their reading.
- This assessment is done by the classroom teacher only.

PTO Teacher Liaison**Ms. Elisa Root**

- Rob Buyea visited. Great speaker, really spoke to each grade level. Mrs. Jamie Tsolas is our new lunch and recess aide and Mrs. Deb Hammer is our new math tutor.
- Wednesday, Nov 27th is Comfy Day. No school on the 28th and 29th.
- December 12th is the winter concert. Snow date is December 13th. No times yet.
- December 20th will be Festive Sweater Day and will be Mrs. Corsair's last day. She is retiring.
- Mrs. McLaughlin thanked the PTO for funding purchase of nutmeg books and labels.

Special Guest Speaker:**Emily Keel**

Ivy the Very Determined Dog is a book based on the true story of a French bulldog named Ivy. Request to have the author come for a visit that includes a live reading, video, discussion, and demonstration with Ivy. Autumn made motion to allocate \$1300 from general fund to bookmark for this assembly and Colleen seconded the motion. Vote passed.

Special Guest Speaker:**Kevin Hill**

Has been on BOE for 4 years, 2 of those years on BOE finance committee. Kevin is now part of town council. Kevin explained that the school budget is signed into law in May but process begins in January. He wants parents to get involved in the process and to voice their concerns. His fear is that we will not only get the increase to make ends meet but actually taking away money. BOE has workshops where parents can attend. Kevin will be in contact regarding when the budget process begins and when parents can attend meetings to voice their concerns. Ken Lesser also spoke to this topic.

Committee Reports:

During this time, committees will only provide reports. Any questions or comments, please email the committee or save for open forum.

- **BOE/WSPC** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - BOE business manager was at the WSPC meeting and stated that the PTO should be responsible to get teachers to sign a waiver for competitive PTO events (like basketball, dodgeball) during after school hours so that if teachers get injured, it waives their ability to file workman's comp.
 - Webb principal resigned. Donna Schulke interim principle (was previous middle school interim principle.)
 - We are in Phase 2 of building study and Mr. Emmett wants referendum in the next few months to vote to move forward with possible 110 million dollar plan. Concern about asbestos in schools.
 - EDSIGHT.COM website with public info about different school systems.
 - Immunizations in Wethersfield schools discussed. 8% of students in Hamner not immunized.
 - Lot of changes of people on the BOE. Jim Reilly (E-W parent) elected to board.
- **Cheer** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Tuesday is teacher luncheon. Stuffing needed!
- **Community Outreach** **Rebecca Anderson**
 - Turkey Dinner Outreach started November 12 to 25th. See grade lists for items. Similar to Pack the Pantry. Money accepted for donations.
- **Cultural Night** **Elisa Root**
 - Save the date! Friday March 6th 630p-830p. Snow date will be March 13th. Save the Date will be sent out in December. Next meeting Nov 20th 3:15pm.
- **Directory** **Frances Schwarzhaupt**
 - Books finally distributed last week!
- **Holiday Store** **Shana Smith**
 - 300 bags needed for kids to go shopping. Beth doing great job. Sign up genius set up for volunteers.

- **HTHT** **Peping Dee, Jr**
 - Price will be the same as last year. Dates are: 12/16/2019 for grade 4, 3/9/2020 for grade 2, 3/11/2020 for grade 1, 3/16/2020 for grade 6, 3/20/2020 for grade K, 4/22/2020 for grade 5 and 4/23/2020 for grade 3.
 - Thanks to Mrs. Woods for all her help.
- **SEPTO** **Amy Burlingame**
 - Meeting in October was from CPAC and about 30 people attended.
 - November meeting is next Wednesday at 7pm. Location is in the middle school cafeteria.
 - November meeting will be mock PPT presentations by Kevin Daly.
- **Vendor Fair** **Courtney Harlow**
 - Dec 6th 5-830p, still looking for vendors, helps support local businesses.
 - New signs will be posted. Set up starts at 4pm for vendors.
 - Sign up genius coming.
- **Book Fair** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Spring book fair will be April 27-29. Colleen and Amy Burlingame are co-chairing. There will be no cash profit but will get scholastic dollars for school supplies for teachers/staff. Kick off summer reading. E-W will host Presidential primary vote on April 27th.
- **6th Grade** **Rebecca Anderson**
 - Vineyard Vines fundraiser (on October 10th) made \$131.10. Vineyard Vines changed shopping hours from 2 to 3 hours. Thanks to all who came out and supported.
 - Lyman Orchard fundraiser made a profit of \$1904. 280 pies sold.
 - 64 t-shirts ordered at a total cost of \$576 dollars.
 - 6th grade committee to sell pizza at Holiday Store. 4 sheet pizzas donated from 2 different pizza places. Working on getting 6-9 volunteers to man tables. Need signup genius to coordinate volunteers (in 30-60min increments.)
- **Talent Show** **Christina Carreiro**
 - Feb 7th at Webb Auditorium.
 - Nov 22nd deadline to sign up.
 - Christina used jotform for signup which she thought worked well and could be used for other committees, like the directory.
- **Gaga pit** **Colleen Mattatall**
 - Town approved. Location near playscape.
 - Will be done in spring.

Old Business

- **By laws vote**
 - Copies of amended by-laws provided. Courtney made motion to approve changes. No second made. Vote tabled at this time.

New Business: no new business

Open Forum: no update regarding music room issue. The health district will be retesting for mold in room. Original pipe to building was the one that broke and leaked into music room. Autumn will call health department regarding price of mold testing. 860-463-2882 Ken Lesser phone number.

Closing Remarks

Adjourn: 9:20pm

Chrissy Pikos