



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, January 9, 2020

Attendees

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anderson, Rebecca | Jones, Pamela | Root, Elisa | Szczepanski, Anna |
| Carey, Charles | McLaughlin, Brenda | Schwarzhaupt, Fran | Thakur, Neela |
| Conashevick, Stephanie | Pikos, Chrissy | Smith, Shana | Williams, Leslie |
| Harlow, Courtney | Pulino, Rosalia | Sousa, Christen | Zaparanick, Melissa |
| Hernandez, Andrea | Rhines, Lauren | | |

Welcome

Chrissy Pikos/Rebecca Anderson

Call to order at 7:02pm.

- Chrissy thanked parents for coming and welcomed Charles Carey, who will be speaking this evening. Chrissy stated that permits will be needed when selling food at events but we do not need a permit to have a raffle.
- Holiday Store occurred and attendance was down, but also note it was a buying/investment year.
- At last meeting, the revised By-laws were not motioned for approval so committee has decided to move forward with the old by-laws as is.
- Kathy Haggerty is starting a Parent/Child book Club for 5th and 6th graders and their parents. Details to come.
- To have an event flyer reviewed for approval, email flyer.review@ewpto.com. This email address includes, 1st and 2nd year PTO presidents and Neela. Once flyer is approved for distribution, please email flyer to event.marketing@ewpto.com. This email address includes the PTO secretary, PTO webmaster, Mary Lacy and Caryn Doten.
- Talent Show deadline for art pieces to be displayed is 1/24.
- Art Show is this year. Mrs. Richard will be using company Artome to frame pictures. There will be an option for families to purchase their child's art in the frame, cost estimated around \$25. There is no upfront cost or charge. After the art show, the company will collect the frames. Mrs. Richard will need volunteers and will reach out at a later date.
- Tiger Topics articles needed so reach out to Chrissy.

Secretary's Report

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Approval of 11/14 meeting minutes, with correction of start time changed to 7:06pm, was motioned by Courtney Harlow. Seconded by Shana Smith and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank-you cards from:
 - Mrs. Jahne and Mrs. Yatrousis' class for headphones.
 - Grade 5 teachers for poster board for author study projects.
 - Grade 4 teachers for holiday luncheon.
 - Mrs. Corsair for retirement flowers and candy.
 - Brenda McLaughlin and E-W staff for Nutmeg Books and spine labels.

- 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, if you would like your flyer posted more than once in Tiger Adventures, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report

- Not available for this meeting.

Special Guest Speaker

Mr. Charles Carey

He is the chairperson of BOE. Charles wants to hear more from parents so BOE members will be attending PTO meetings throughout Wethersfield. He heard about the issues in our music room and helped facilitate the carpet replacement in the E-W music room. There will be budget workshops open to the public to attend these meetings. BOE Website has prelim budget for next year.

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Thank you for coming out in the cold and to parents for being very vocal about music room carpet which helped get it replaced.
- Mrs. Corsair retired in December and huge thanks to Shana for the book gift that students and staff signed.
- Ruth George replaced Mrs. Corsair. She was the assistant librarian at high school.
- School wide school spirit day Jan. 24 - sport team jersey and t-shirt day.
- Jan 30th 5pm-7pm SEL (social emotional learning) family night. Mrs. M.(social worker) and Miss Florio (speech therapist) coordinated this first-time event.
- Flyer with listing of budget meetings provided. At these workshops, parents cannot comment, just listen. Parents can attend part of the meeting, do not need to be there the whole time. It's a good way to know what's going on before you go to the BOE meeting to express your concerns/questions. Neela strongly suggests trying to go to get a good awareness of what's going on. Times are: 1/18 from 9a-12p, 1/30 from 6pm-8pm, 2/2 from 9a-12p, and 2/5 6pm-8pm.
- Orange paper is the science results of SBAC in May 2019. This is the first time that science has been tested and measured in grades 5, 8, 11 only. Will be given again in April and SBAC in May. EDSIGHT website will tell you scores of all towns in state.

PTO Teacher Liaison

Ms. Elisa Root

- Mrs. Liz Aichele (EL tutor) joining us. She will be working with Mrs. Pulino.
- Principal's breakfast is on Feb 10th 9am-10:15am.
- Prior to vacation, E-W staff participated in 12 days of giving, raised \$300 and helped 3 E-W families.
- Maker space - teachers are meeting to discuss different ideas of use in that space. Will share when more info comes out.
- On Nov 15th, WHS kids came in and taught lessons as part of the WHS future educators. They did an amazing job and our kids loved it. Taught grades k-2 in all classrooms.
- Jan 20th there is no school for MLK.
- Jan 31st 6th grade is hosting Stripe-a-thon. Face painting, dancing, games, pie a teacher. \$10 a ticket for kids, adults are free.
- Per Neela, 62 students in E-W that need EL support. The reality is that these kids don't know a lot of English, so it is a lot for one teacher to have 62 students. In town, most EL students are here in EW. It's a big need. Every school has an EL teacher but CW has FT teacher and FT tutor. FYI if more than 20% student population in a school speaks Spanish, the school is considered a bilingual school. All schools in Wethersfield, besides Hamner, will be bilingual for next year.

Special Guest Speaker:**Brenda McLaughlin/Mrs. Jones/Mrs. Pulino**

- Multicultural Classroom Books. Courageous Conversations Committee (CCC) is looking for ways to teach/share/include our diverse population of students. In one meeting, they came up with the idea of having books in classroom that would bridge the gap with minority and non-minority students and hopefully provide learning moments about diversity and inclusion.
- 201 titles (25-30 books per classroom) 3 copies of each books, 1 copy of each book for each classroom equals 603 books total.
- Books are not bilingual, books are English but covers different cultures, disabilities, holidays, social issues. Mix of fiction and non fiction, more fiction. Books can be shared among all classes.
- Books were selected by company Follate after CCC expressed what they were looking for and then CCC reviewed selections. Combo of soft (mostly) and hard cover, got more soft cover because less cost so can buy more books.
- Motion to purchase books for \$4,469.85 by Chrissy Pikos. Andrea Hernandez seconded motion and vote passed.

Committee Reports:

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

- **6th Grade** **Leslie Williams**
 - \$131.10 check for VV and just got here.
 - On Jan 17, 6th grade fundraiser is psychic medium night. \$40 per ticket, 8 remaining tickets available.
 - Save the Date for March 20th it's Parent Casino Night at Mohegan Sun.
 - March 24th 4pm-1030pm is Puerta Vallarta fundraiser night.
- **Cheer** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Feb 11th Paris Café Luncheon planned for staff.
 - Welcome card sent to Mrs. George.
 - Shana created 2 books for staff and kids to sign. Flowers and a card were also given.
- **Cultural Night** **Elisa Root**
 - 7 families signed up. Another flyer will be sent home.
 - Date set for Friday, March 6th from 630p-830p. Snow date will be March 13th.
 - Need blast to go out in all communication forms.
- **Munson's Chocolates** **Fran Schwarzhaupt**
 - Looking for volunteer to coordinate this fundraiser.
 - Order forms being mailed to me.
 - Looking for chocolates to be delivered before Easter, so this fundraiser must be completed by end of February and orders submitted to Munson's by March 5th.
- **UCONN** **Fran Schwarzhaupt**
 - Woman's basketball game is on Saturday January 11th.
 - 30 tickets sold at \$12 per ticket. There is a \$2 profit for each ticket sold.
 - There is a delivery fee of \$10 so profit ends up being \$50.
 - Interest in this fundraiser has declined over the past 3 years. James recommends no more than 50 tickets reserved for next game, or not reserving any tickets and just buy what families request, or discontinue this event due to low turnout.
- **Wish List** **Christen Sousa**
 - Budget met of \$3000 and lots of wishes granted. There was an overlap in timing of purchases and budget exceeded by \$355.56.
 - Chrissy made motion to allot \$355.56 to cover purchases. Shana seconded and vote passed.
- **WSPC/BOE** **Chrissy Pikos**
 - Portables at Highcrest going out to bid again.
 - Webb principal search is ongoing.

- WSPC Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony will be April 29th. Please start thinking about someone who you would like to recognize.
- **Yankee Candle**
 - Issues with company delivering products on time for families to pick up.

New Business

- **Vendor Fair** **Courtney Harlow**
 - After purchasing signs (1 lost and 1 destroyed) \$526.90 profit.
 - Debating about doing a spring one.
- **Library volunteers were updated thru second trimester.** **Shana Smith**
- **Community Outreach** **Rebecca Anderson**
 - Many food items and \$60 cash collected and presented to Food Pantry.
 - Another collection to come in the spring.
- **Wish List Items:**
 1. Grade 6 team (made first time request) to purchase rocker chairs, 3 per classroom at an estimated \$810 total.
 2. Grades 3 and 4 team requested money to continue discovery education streaming school license for the rest of this school year (Dec -June.) Estimated cost of \$933.
 3. Mrs. Flores (school nurse) requested office chair, 6 packages of underwear for boys and girls, contact paper, and lice treatment \$297. 03 cents.

Chrissy made motion to allot \$2200 to purchase above 3 items. Rebecca seconded motion and vote passed.

Food Permit:

When providing foods during PTO events, we need a food permit. This was brought to our attention about a week before the holiday store. Per Leslie, cost was \$60 for permit. Chrissy made motion for PTO to cover \$60 cost this one time. Shana seconded motion and vote passed.

Open Forum:

At larger kid's playground, there's a water run-off causing divets on black top. Neela to look into it and notify town.

Closing Remarks

Strawberry Festival looking for chair, if no one signs up, it won't happen.

Chrissy Pikos

Adjourn: 8:47pm