



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, February 6, 2020

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Pikos, Chrissy	Szczepanski, Anna	Williams, Leslie
Burlingame, Amy	Root, Elisa	Thakur, Neela	Zaparanick, Melissa
Haggerty, Kathy	Schwarzhaupt, Fran		

Welcome

Chrissy Pikos/Rebecca Anderson

Call to order at 7:02pm.

- Munson's Chocolates forms distributed. You can buy the bunny chocolates that are listed for March and April only.
- Last karate session was held on the 4th
- Talent Show is tomorrow.
- Staff Luncheon is on Feb 11th. Paris theme.
- Cultural night will be in March.
- Boon supply (aka Mixed Bags) will be coming out.
- On March 27, the signature project from creative arts will occur.

Secretary's Report

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Approval of 01/09 meeting minutes was motioned by Chrissy Pikos. Seconded by Melissa Zaparanick and approved.
- Sign-in attendance sheet distributed for each attendee to add their name and email address.
- Thank-you cards from:
 - Mrs. Clermont (aka Miss Lucas) for her wedding gift.
- 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

Amy Burlingame

- \$100 donation match from a parent's employer for membership.
- Mixed fall fundraiser (was Otis/Yankee fundraiser) made \$1428.05. Suggestion made to separate these fundraisers for next year.
- 6th grade committee requested deposits for Empower. Someone Special Dance made deposits for photo booth and dj, gym mats were cleaned, and wish list updated.
- See balance sheet.
- There is a question of Amazon purchases made with PTO credit card, about \$300 worth of purchases made and we need to know what it is and who did it. Anyone with info, please notify Amy or the PTO board.

Principal's Remarks

Ms. Neela Thakur

- Stripes-A-Thon raised \$2916.34 for CCMC.

- On SEL family night, 96 kids and families participated. Everyone seemed to enjoy and great feedback was given.
- Talent show is tomorrow at 6pm at Webb. Admission for E-W kids is free, \$2 tickets for others.
- Next Tuesday, Sally Distoli is doing a big presentation on the CT State Department of Education- Accountability Results for 2018-2019. These results are based on last May's state wide assessments. Emerson-Williams got a high ranking of category 2 (1 is the best, 5 is the worst.) EW had the biggest improvement. Our achievement gap was not higher than the state average which is good.
- BOE meeting regarding budget was tough. BOE is looking for money for referendum to renovate the elementary school but there are needs for the next school year that are also important. Mr. Emmett has asked for a 3.66% budget increase for next year, which will keep things "status quo" aka keeping things in place as they are now. If Mr. Emmett has to lower budget increase to 3%, there will be cuts to staff members positions, etc.
- This is not a progressive budget. For example, Mrs. Pulino has 62 EL students and there is no room in the budget for extra staff to assist her and our students.
- On 3/10, Mr. Emmett will present budget to BOE. On 3/16, BOE will present to Town Council. These hearings are open to the public and your voice can be heard. Please send letters to let the BOE and Town Council regarding your thought and concerns.

PTO Teacher Liaison

Ms. Elisa Root

- Principal breakfast scheduled for Monday 2/10 from 9am-1015am. It's for K-3 parents and the focus will be on math.
- Star reports came home today, do not need to sign and return them.
- New para started today. Her name is Tanya Benny.
- Brendan is a new student teacher working with Miss Caravella.
- 100th day of school tomorrow.
- On January 23rd, Dare students had graduation ceremony with Officer Silva.
- Field day scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd 12pm-230pm and June 5th is rain date.

Special Guest Speaker:

Kathy Haggerty

- Parent/child book club will be meeting on Tuesday Feb 25th. Originally, the book club involved only 5th and 6th graders and their parents, but now open to 4th graders also.
- To promote reading for fun.
- Ruth George wants to be on email blast.

New Business reminder: Talent show - Rebecca will speak for Christina.

Committee Reports:

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

- **Cheer**

Fran Schwarzhaupt

- Welcome card sent to new media teacher.
- Sympathy card sent to staff at WHS for the sudden passing of their English teacher.

- **Creative Arts**

Chrissy Pikos

- The Signature Project (an Irish Storyteller) is coming in March to all Wethersfield schools. The performance will be at E-W on March 27th.
- Rob Buyea came in the fall for presentations and a 5th grade workshop.
- There is a possibility of an acapella music performance to come by the end of the current school year. More info to follow (if feasible.)
- Creative Arts will be sending a bill to PTO for the per student assessment in the upcoming months.
- For next year, Creative Arts will no longer be receiving any funding from the Keane Foundation.
- Return of the Falconer show in Fall 2020.

- They are looking to bring Circus Smirkus (a one week residency program) to each of the elementary schools in Spring 2021. All gym teachers promote this program because it will run similar to hip hop, with the circus using space in the gym for a week. They may need host families from each school to provide housing for 2 performers.
- For 2021-2022, some ideas are: Soro Bindi dance troupe, Brain Game to return, Yo-Yo Guy, and a field trip to the behind the scenes/dress rehearsal at Bushnell.
- **Cultural Night** **Elisa Root**
 - 14 countries will be represented: Peru, Jamaica/West Indies, Brazil, Russia, South Korea, Scotland, Guyana, Argentina, Sweden, Ghana, Poland, Spain, and Italy.
 - Will take place on Friday March 6.
 - There will be performances, food, and a scavenger hunt that will involve the flags in the café.
- **Munson's Chocolates** **Fran Schwarzhaupt**
 - Forms distributed and due Feb 21st.
 - Chocolates will be delivered before Easter.
- **SEPTO** **Amy Burlingame**
 - January meeting was held at E-W. There was a presentation from Department of Developmental Services and Wethersfield Transition Academy.
 - Feb 19th will be the next meeting.
- **WSPC/BOE** **Amy Burlingame**
 - WSPC Awards ceremony coming up where each school gets to recognize parent volunteer. If you know someone who deserves to be recognized, email Colleen. If more than one person is nominated, we will need to vote at our March meeting. There is also a recognition award for a community member (last year was Keane Foundation.) You can also nominate someone for that.
 - Mr. Emmett is doing a reality tour with BOE and town council members to look at all the schools (things like boiler rooms, etc.)
 - Caroline Fazzina is partnering for a research project with other after school programs. Survey to come out about what you like or don't like in after school programs.
 - Elementary school renos finished phase 2 and funding needed for phase 3.
 - Spoke about accountability measurements.
 - Monitoring absences with spike in Flu a and b. Custodians have been instructed to use sprays instead of wipes. Hand sanitizer should be used in all schools.
 - District is discouraging competitive activities between teachers and students. PTO should get waivers signed to avoid workman's comp claims.
- **6th Grade**
 - Half way to fundraising goal. 18 tickets sold to spiritual medium and she was great.
 - 2 more fundraisers coming up. One is the Casino night, which payment is due by February 24th. Puerta Vallarta night is the other fundraiser. Same day as 6th grade meeting.
- **Talent Show** **Rebecca Anderson**
 - Will be tomorrow February 7th. There are 31 artists and 20 acts. Backstage crew will be students running it, with parents as back up. Tickets are \$2, E-W students are free. Need to sell \$185 worth of tickets to break even. John Cuadras made cool graphics for show.

New Business

- **March Bring a Friend**
 - If PTO member brings a friend (one that doesn't live with you) to next meeting, names get put in drawing for \$25 amazon gift card. Neela will do email blast.
- **Budget**

- Looking for people to join committee.
- Meetings planned for second half of March into April. Proposed budget to be presented in May and then voted on in June.
- **Nominations**
 - Nominations for next year's PTO board members need to be submitted by April meeting. Then the nominees will be presented at the May meeting and voted in at the June meeting.

Food permits

Email sent to Central CT Health District, who stated if an event is not open to the public and you are only serving your community, you do not need a permit. If it's an event open to the public, like Strawberry Festival, you need a food permit.

Open Forum:

1. What do we do with bounced checks from fundraisers? Rarely happens and Amy has spoken directly to individuals.
2. Work order in for playscape repair.

Closing Remarks

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

Chrissy Pikos

Adjourn: 8:16pm