



Emerson-Williams PTO
Virtual Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, October 8, 2020

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Williams, Williams	Carvalho, Stephanie	Szczepanski, Anna
Collette, Peggy	Mattatall, Colleen	Smith, Shana	Thakur, Neela
Root, Elisa	Sousa, Christen	Struk, Autumn	Struk, Jeff

Welcome

Rebecca Anderson/Leslie Williams

Call to order at 7:04pm.

- Rebecca relayed information about the need for a PTO treasurer and requested motions to re-open the nominations. Neela and Colleen volunteered to make the motions.
- Rebecca discussed National Walk/Bike to School day on 10/7/2020 which was run by Neela. As a result of the current situation with COVID as a community the principals of all schools have decided to pass this year.
- Rebecca entered a contest on PTO Today to receive samples and coupons of Sambucol Elderberry chews for the teachers and staff and we were one of the lucky schools that were chosen.
- Leslie spoke about how in the last two months there was discussion with Neela and Ms. Reynolds about water bottles for those children who may have forgotten them for the day as the water fountains are only being used as filling stations. Leslie reached out to various places that pass out water bottles asking for donations. TD Bank and Newington Family Dentistry were the ones to donate.
- Leslie noted that the PTO Amazon account is now a business account and with this purchase orders can be provided and orders can be tracked. Prime was not chosen as Amazon has free shipping with pick a day. Leslie noted that the Tax Exempt/IRS letter was submitted to Amazon for tax exempt purchases.

Secretary's Report

Stephanie Carvalho

- October 7th was staff development. The staff began the Second Step Training on the social/emotional curriculum which will be introduced at the beginning of November. This will be used for all K-8 students in the district
- Reminders: 10/12 No school for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day. There will be no remote Wednesday that week and Cohort 1 will attend school in person Tuesday/Wednesday. Jumpstart! Read for the Record will begin on 10/29 and the book will be about a girl who moves away and how she deals with the change.
- Neela thanked the PTO for purchasing the books for Jumpstart! Read for the Record.
- Ms. Root spoke about setting up virtual reading to classrooms. Shana is in charge of media for K-2; and 3 and beyond is a mystery reader. As there is no student directory it is uncertain how to obtain parents for each class to sign up. Shana agreed that should this get approved that she will coordinate.

Committee Reports:

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

Candles

Rebecca Anderson

- Kringle Candle will run from 10/25/2020 - 11/12/2020.
- Completely touchless fundraiser and will be sent to purchaser's home.
- The goal for this fundraiser is \$250 raised. If a purchase is \$75+ Kringle Candle offers free shipping.

Bookfair

Rebecca Anderson

- Ran from 9/24/2020 - 10/4/2020. Total sold was \$1165 and the commission was \$117. There was an extra \$15 commission made on postage so the final commission with this was \$132. Made 6% of the projected fundraising goal of \$2000.

BoxTops

Rebecca Anderson

- So far have made \$43.60 (14.5%) against the goal of \$300. There are a lot of outstanding cut boxtops that need to be collected.
- Rebecca will have a touchless boxtop collection box outside of her house.
- The cut boxtops need to be redeemed by 11/2/2020.

Membership

Rebecca Anderson

- Remains ongoing.
- There are no official dues and families can voluntarily donate.
- There is a QR code that was created and is on the EW PTO website.

Nominations for Treasurer

- None

Sixth Grade Committee

Stephanie Carvalho

- Stephanie provided update that meeting will be forthcoming to begin planning.

Spiritwear

Leslie Williams

- There are two designs. One for distance learners and one with a word splash.

- Sales will begin the week before Thanksgiving.
- The company being used is Yours Personally LLC out of Wethersfield. They will have offerings of sweatshirts, face masks and t-shirts.

Website

Rebecca Anderson

- There were changes made to the membership section. There are now PayPal tips and the QR code.
- The website also now includes the Google Translator for those non-English speaking families.

WSPC

Colleen Mattatall

- Colleen reported meeting last week after Mr. Emmett's letter.
- Kim Bobbin the WECC Director indicated that they now have new program community messenger for a total of 12 in town. Every school will have 1 to distribute information from the town.
- WSPC business – approved a decrease in the yearly dues for this year. The dues went from \$75 to \$45. They typically spend most of their money on the movie on the lawn which did not happen this year.
- COVID stats: as of 9/29 there has been one confirmed positive that was not contracted in the school. There have been 2 students in quarantine and one student in isolation. The town has 2000 cloth mask adult sized PPE and they will soon be receiving child sizes.
- Town Council has approved the purchase of antifreeze to go into the HVAC systems to promote fresh air.
- Fall sports began in 10/2020 and spectators are allowed in certain circumstances. It remains uncertain if and when football can resume.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conscious Kids Books

Leslie Williams

- EWPTO at the request of EW Parent is being asked to purchase 41 various multicultural books which was vetted through Neela. The books cost an estimate of \$560. There are three options available: 1. Motion to purchase now; 2. Mrs. George cannot check out books at this time; question is to table the purchase for a later time after the pandemic or 3. Bring in a fundraiser to purchase the books outright
 - In re: fundraiser to purchase outright, the Board discussed a possible cookbook fundraiser where E-W families contribute recipes and have the books available for purchase. Rebecca found a company online that would print the books.
 - Discussion was opened to the PTO members: Shana mentioned making an area for the teachers to check out the books to be read in the class which Neela indicated could be done. Shana motioned to buy the books and to make them readily available to the teachers. Christen indicated she would like to hear the teacher's thoughts on the books which Ms. Root noted she could ask teachers. Neela noted that the Courageous Conversations team could discuss how to utilize the resources with the students/classes and she noted that the list of books was passed onto her and Ms. McLaughlin and they both agreed they seemed appropriate for grades 2-6. Ms. Root asked that other resources be considered for K-2. Colleen second the motion made by Shana and noted that Kim Bobbin has a list of books for K-2. She also indicated that the cost on Conscious Kids website present higher than on Amazon. There was no opposition and the books

will be purchased via Conscious Kids or wherever the best possible cost can be obtained. 10 yays, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

Jumpstart! Read for Record Rebecca Anderson

- 9 books in English and 1 in Spanish purchased.

Address Directory/Holiday Store Leslie Williams

Holiday Store - there are three options available and one was recommended by another store. There was discussion of offering the holiday store to be run by the 6th grade committee. A motion was needed to give money to the 6th grade and have this taken out of the budget. Shana and Anna motioned and there was no opposition.

- Need a chair for each committee and there were no volunteers.
 - There was a question as to voting to not have the committees this year.
 - There was also a recommendation of looking for volunteers for the holiday store by posting on Facebook for one week and if there are no volunteers then it would not happen. The deadline to receive volunteers is 10/19/2020.

Address Directory- Motion to abstain from publishing the Address Directory for the 2020-2021 school year made by Neela. Seconded by Shana and Christen.

Advertising Committee

- Will be done via Tiger Topics and Facebook as there is no directory this year.
- Committee is needed which would entail cold calling.
- No interest by PTO members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Room Parents/ Tiger Topics/Candles/Spiritwear Rebecca Anderson/Leslie Williams

- Chairs can sign up on the EWPTO website under what we do.
 - Colleen asked about the role of room parent. Rebecca noted that some teachers do not use them while others do. Ms. Root indicated they are used to help with activities in the classroom. Room parent chairs also have a Facebook page. Autumn noted the chair is a point person for communication between teacher and parents.

Core Club Rebecca Anderson

- Website will be live soon and this is an open-ended fundraising program. Families that participate by contributing automatically and this will auto-renew until the family ends it.

Shop with Scrip Rebecca Anderson

- Active since 7/29/2020 and is an ongoing program. There are currently 5 families enrolled and two have made purchases. This month alone this program generated \$121.30 toward the PTO. App is called Raise Right. YTD we have made: \$145.00. Budget: \$1235.00 (To goal: 12%). Nominal fee - .15 cents per bank account linked transaction, \$2.25 on each credit/debit card
- **Nominations for Treasurer** – were closed by Rebecca.

Open Forum:

- **Next meeting 11/12/2020.**

Closing Remarks **Rebecca Anderson**

Thank you for calling in and participating in the conference.

Adjourn: 9:00pm