



Emerson-Williams PTO
 Virtual Meeting Minutes for
 Thursday, April 8, 2021

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Burlingame, Amy	Carvalho, Stephanie	Murtha, Tory
Root, Elisa	Smith, Shana	Sczezpanski, Anna	Thakur, Neela
Williams, Leslie			

Welcome **Rebecca Anderson/Leslie Williams**

Call to order at 7:01pm.

- Rebecca welcomed everyone to the EWPTO meeting.
- Leslie thanked everyone for joining and reminded everyone that the meeting documents link was in the chat box.

Secretary’s Report **Stephanie Carvalho**

- Stephanie asked for everyone to review the minutes from the 03/11/2021 meeting.
- Approval of 03/11/2021 meeting minutes motioned by Anna and seconded by Neela.
- Stephanie read notes of appreciation from Mrs. Jahne, Ms. Woods, Mrs. Clermont, Mrs. Kardys, Ms. Root, Mrs. Laskowski, Mr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Emmanuel, Mrs. Moore, Ms. Gove, Ms. Keel, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Cardone, and Ms. George.

Treasurer’s Report **Rebecca Anderson**

- The current EWPTO bank balance is \$13,594.28.
- Money going out was for the Cheer Committee purchases, AIM insurance that was paid, and the filing of the annual report with the Secretary of the State.
- Money coming in was from purchases for Shop with Scrip.
- What remains outstanding is the PayPal transfers.

- Also, Rebecca noted that the bank statement was not available for this meeting so she did not have statement month end reports to provide.

Principal's Remarks

Neela Thakur

- Neela reported that the year is slow but it is flying by.
- Everyone is happy to have the children back in school five days a week.
- Everyone is taking baby steps getting back to normal.
- Spring Recess is next week.
- Travel recommendations: strongly recommending that if going out of state for greater than 24 hours to quarantine and have a COVID test prior to returning to school. She is asking for help to spread the word.
- If someone tests positive over Spring Recess, they need to email Neela directly.
- She hopes everyone has a happy and healthy vacation.
- In April there have been in person half days on Wednesdays and the next dates are 4/21/2021 and 4/28/2021. May and June have yet to be announced as to the status of Wednesdays.
- Grades 3-6 are in the midst of state testing. The 5th grade is also testing in science. The testing consists of language arts, math, and reading and this testing will continue through the month of April.
- Neela just learned that E-W and Charles Wright can hire 1 English language teacher. There are currently 64 English language students in E-W and E-W has the highest number of English language learners. The plan is to hire the teacher over the summer.

PTO Liaison

Elisa Root

- Ms. Root reported that there are new faces in the school. Natalie Kowalski is a student teacher with Ms. Fortuna who is from University of Hartford and will be at the school until May. She is also helping out in Ms. Root's class.
- Ms. Caravella has returned to school.
- Breaks and lunch are going to resume outside after April break.
- April break is from 4/12/2021 - 4/16/2021.
- May 5, 2021 is an early dismissal day as well as walk/bike to school day.
- There will be free meals provided over break. The deadline for those interested has been extended to 4/9/2021 at 3pm.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

- None

Committee Reports:

Boon Supply

Stephanie Carvalho

- Fundraiser ended on 4/5/2021 but the site remains open through the end of June 2020.

Cheer Committee

Leslie Williams

- Teacher appreciation week begins on 5/4/2021. We would like to recognize staff. Cove Deli will be providing individual prepackaged lunches for staff. They cost \$10 each and with 70 total staff it will cost \$700. The EWPTO will be looking to seek out donations from parents and emails will be sent out with further information.

- Leslie reached out to Yard Cards about putting a 30 ft decoration on the front lawn of the school to celebrate during the week and the fee is \$125. She is asking for a vote from the EWPTO at the end of the meeting to use these funds from the bank.

Raffle

Leslie Williams

- With donations received for teacher appreciation week via either PayPal or mailing them directly to Leslie, the EWPTO will be raffling off an American Doll Girl that was previously donated.

Munson's Chocolates

Leslie Williams

- Most Chocolate orders were picked up on 3/28/2021.
- All the orders were picked up before the holiday weekend.
- The only issue was that those who ordered chocolate covered raisins were unable to get them due to their unavailability, but they opted for the chocolate covered peanuts.
- Profit of \$250.40.

Cookies/Butter Braids/Pies

Rebecca Anderson

- Sold 80 butter braids, 15 pies, and 20 cookies.
- Profit of \$527.
- MGM is a phenomenal company to work with and provided replacement items without any questions asked.

Stop & Shop Giving Bags

Leslie Williams

- Emerson-Williams was chosen for the month of April for the Community Bag Program.
- Each bag is \$2.50 and from each bag purchased \$1 will go to the EWPTO.

Nominations Committee

Rebecca Anderson

- There will be a need of two members of the general EWPTO Membership to participate in the committee.
- If there are no volunteers, the 2nd year Co-President will need to appoint members at the next regularly scheduled EWPTO Meeting in May.

Budget Committee

Rebecca Anderson

- The initial Budget Committee meeting will take place on 4/19/2021 at 7pm.
- The second meeting, should it be needed, will be on 5/3/2021 at 7pm.
- The budget needs to be presented in May 2021 and approved by June 2021.

WSPC

Rebecca Anderson for Colleen Mattatall

- Registration for Bike/Walk to School Day is by 5/5/2021. There will be no giveaways.
- The crossing guards have recently been absent and the police have been assisting.
- \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift cards will be provided to the crossing guards.
- Screen Free week is coming up.
- Teacher Appreciation Week – Big Y will be providing muffins to Highcrest.
- The district noted the most lag in student math scores and they are planning on hiring tutors.

- A new community event, Bicycles on Main has begun in which bikes are decorated to ring in spring and there will be voting on best display on 5/2/2021. This is being run by the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association.
- WSPC voted in 1/2021 to skip volunteer awards as many PTOs are not active and they are unable to have a live awards ceremony.

Open Forum:

- Leslie asked that voting be utilized for the rental of signage from Yard Cards for teacher appreciation week as well as for the teacher lunches. The owner of Yard Cards will only charge \$125 which would go toward her investment in a new sign set. Lunches would be \$700. A motion to use up to \$825 from the PTO bank account, dependent on the amount of donations received. Currently have received \$85 in donations. Motion to approve by Stephanie and Amy. The motion passes. All in favor 7, no oppositions and no abstentions.
- Rebecca discussed the safety of everyone during afternoon pick up which has been an ongoing issue.
- Rebecca brought up an individual in a golf cart in the back of the school zipping up and down; parents crossing through traffic with children not on the cross walk as well as lots of dogs in various shapes and sizes.
- Rebecca also mentioned individuals parking on the wrong side of the pick-up area and words being exchanged.
- Leslie also noted that she sees a lot of children being let off on the driver's side of the vehicle at drop off.
- Neela discussed the golf cart. She reported that the individual is a police officer who cited a code and uses it to pick up his child from school. She also mentioned the dangers of not crossing at the cross walk. It is in part the responsibility of the staff to remind the parents of such. Neela has noted that there are some cars that drive too fast or parents are on the phone while going through the loop.
- In regards to the dogs, Neela called the WPD two years ago and was informed that they are allowed on private property.
- Neela will continue to remind staff and families to follow the rules.
- Anna agreed with Rebecca regarding dogs on school property. She was looking at the Bicycles on Main and wanted to know if the fee was waived for non-profits. Rebecca noted this would need to be brought up to WSPC but that the fee may have to be paid for.
- Shana motion for the EWPTO to pay for the fee if Anna wants to participate in the Bicycles on Main, given that expenditures over \$50 need to be voted on.

Next meeting 05/06/2021.

Closing Remarks

Rebecca Anderson

- Rebecca thanked everyone for coming.
- Motion to adjourn by Shana; seconded by Stephanie.

Adjourn: 8:01pm