



Emerson-Williams PTO
Virtual Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, June 3, 2021

Attendees

Anderson, Rebecca	Carvalho, Stephanie	Root, Elisa	Szczepanski, Anna
Smith, Shana	Thakur, Neela	Williams, Leslie	

Welcome

Rebecca Anderson/Leslie Williams

Call to order at 7:06pm.

- Rebecca welcomed everyone to the last EWPTO meeting of the school year.
- Rebecca said this was the last meeting for her as an EW parent.
- Rebecca opened the floor for nominations of 1st year co-president (2 year term), secretary and treasurer.
- Per Neela, the nominations were Stephanie Carvalho for secretary.
- Leslie welcomed everyone and apologized for the committee sign ups not being available in May but noted that they were now available at ewpto.com

Secretary's Report

Stephanie Carvalho

- Stephanie asked for everyone to review the minutes from the 05/06/2021 meeting.
- Approval of 05/06/2021 meeting minutes motioned by Leslie and seconded by Neela.
- Stephanie read letters of appreciation from the Dollars for Scholars recipient, Autumn Sankofa; Mrs. Moore, Ms. Keel, Mrs. Charbonneau, Ms. Caravella, Mrs. Gove, Mrs. Cookson, as well as thank you letters from students for the Jack Hartman activity.

Treasurer's Report

Rebecca Anderson

- The current EWPTO bank balance is \$14,217.74.

- Pending deposits were from BoxTops ,the sixth grade fundraiser from D'Angelo's, \$1365 from the sixth grade fundraiser at Puerto Vallarta, and \$28 from Amazon Smile.
- The current bank statement has yet to become available.

Principal's Remarks

Neela Thakur

- Neela thanked Rebecca for being a part of the PTO for the last seven years and for putting on the hat this year of Treasurer. She thanked Rebecca for keeping the PTO going as everything that has been done trickles down to the teachers and students. Neela also noted she was grateful for all of the hours Rebecca put in over the last seven years.
- The students had a presentation today about summer reading. Grades K-5 had a presentation from the town librarian and grade 6 had a presentation from the SDMS librarian and library teen specialist.
- Next week there are spirit days. Monday is represent your favorite sport or team and Tuesdays is PJs/slipper day.
- Last fall, Neela applied for and won a \$1000 grant from the Wethersfield Education Foundation. This coming Thursday/Friday there will be virtual live mad science presentations for grades 2-6. Grades K-1 will have a Jack Hartmann sing along coordinated through Mrs. Dawson, through the Wish List.
- Neela thanked the PTO for all the support this last school year. She has received nothing but praise and compassion.

PTO Liaison

Elisa Root

- Ms. Root thanked Rebecca and noted she has been wonderful and a part of everything. She noted that Rebecca will be missed.
- Ms. Root stated that the Board has been present during the challenging year.
- Mask update: no masks will be needed during outdoor lunch or outdoor recess.
- Upcoming dates:
 - 6/10/2021 from 5-6:30pm Grade 6 Step Up
 - 6/14/2021 - last day of school, early release. Progress reports will go out and summer reading begins.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee

Rebecca Anderson/Leslie Williams

- Have the budget to vote on tonight.
- 2021-2022 document shows a pandemic scenario. Making the assumption that next school year is not going to be normal. It presents that we will spend \$8000 more than we would fundraise. This budget does NOT include high touch and high tech grade level assemblies.
- The only other change is that there is a split donation between the Primary Project and Dollars for Scholars to be inclusive of our Open Choice students.

Cheer Committee

Leslie Williams

- Flowers were given to Mrs. Maffuid for National Nurses Day on 5/12/2021.

- Still have gifts to give out. There is a paraprofessional retiring, special education teacher retiring, and babies being born.

Karate Fundraiser

Leslie Williams

- New England Rendokan of Rocky Hill fundraiser has earned \$196 for the EWPTO.
- This is an ongoing fundraiser. The children are loving it and some are continuing on.
- On 6/9/2021, Leslie's daughter, Avery will perform 2 karate katas for 2nd Grade Talent Show. A kata is a form of exercise that can be applied in real time.

Nominations

Rebecca Anderson

- Reminder that nominations are still open.
- Asked if additional nominations have been received since the beginning of the meeting and none had been received.
- Nominations will later be closed.

School Pictures

Leslie Williams

- Leslie was surprised how the spring pictures came out. She noted that she has had issues the last several years with the photographer.
- Rebecca asked the photographer to mute the background of her child's photo because it appeared technicolored. When the prints were received she noted that the background and her child were muted and her child appeared green.
- Shana noted that the complaints were limited and that in the past the vast majority of the E-W community was happy. She had not heard any negative feedback until today and noted that many schools reach out to see who E-W utilizes for photos..
- Shana mentioned dates for the fall had been secured.
- Leslie recommended vetting other vendors by next year's school pictures committee, ahead of fall picture dates, as the committee still has plenty of time to choose a new vendor if they voted on it.

Voting

Rebecca Anderson

- Leslie Williams continues her 2-year term on the Board as 2nd Year Co-President for 2021-2022.
- No additional nominations received.
- Nominations are closed.
- 1st year co-president – no nominations. Position is still vacant.
- Secretary – nomination of Stephanie Carvalho with no other nominations. 5 yea, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions (when the meeting recording was reviewed it was noted that 1 abstention was Shana Smith). Stephanie Carvalho elected as EWPTO Secretary for 2021-2022.
- Treasurer – no nominations. Position is still vacant.
- Voting closed
- 2021-2022 Pandemic Budget Vote – 5 Yea, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

Open Forum:

- Anna asked the question about the Cheer Committee's purchase of the gift cards if this included the crossing guard.
- Rebecca brought up safety at pick up and drop off and noted she counted the spaces and suggested looking into whether the teachers could park in the spots closest to the drop off lane. She noted that there are 70 staff members and that the first row of spaces are about 64 without handicap spaces. Neela noted this was a very good suggestion and she will encourage staff to park in that

area. Anna asked if it was possible to mark it as staff parking which Neela noted she like the idea and would ask the town if they could designate staff spaces.

Closing Remarks

Leslie Williams

- Remarked that she had a heartfelt goodbye for Rebecca. E-W will not be the same without you, truly a dear friend, and asked that she continue to spread her positive energy. Thanked Rebecca for staying on all the years she has been at E-W.
- Rebecca thanked Leslie and noted that what she has done was always about the teachers and the children. She never lost sight of that. Rebecca noted she was glad that Stephanie joined the board.
- Leslie echoed Rebecca and thanked Stephanie for staying on.
- Stephanie thanked both Rebecca and Leslie.

Adjourn: 8:19m