



Emerson-Williams PTO
Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Attendees

Burlingame, Amy	Carvalho, Stephanie	Hernandez, Andrea	Rhines, Laura
Root, Elisa	Sczepanski, Anna	Skaparas, Laura	Smith, Shana
Sousa, Christen	Struk, Autumn	Thakur, Neela	Williams, Leslie

Welcome

Leslie Williams

Call to order at 7:04pm.

- Leslie thanked: Amy/Colleen for chairing book fair, Anna/Liz for the Scarecrow, teachers/students for painting the pumpkins for the scarecrow display, Joella/Karla for chairing the room parents and Shana/Peggy for their work with school pictures.

Secretary's Report

Stephanie Carvalho

- Stephanie asked for everyone to review the minutes from the 09/09/2021 meeting.
- Approval of 09/09/2021 meeting minutes motioned by Amy and Autumn.
- Stephanie read notes of appreciation from Mrs. Clermont, Mrs. Kardys, Mrs. Nunn, and Ms. Charbonneau.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Skaparas

- The current PTO bank balance is \$16,442.00 as of 10/14/2021. This includes deposits from the opt out fundraiser, book fair, and community bag program.
- The payment for the Wish List purchase of the classroom rugs will be reflected next month.

Principal's Remarks

Neela Thakur

- Expressed regret that she could not be at the meeting in person as she has been out of work on medical leave, recovering well, for the past four weeks.
- Thankful for Donna Shilke, substitute Principal, who is covering in her absence.
- The staff has been doing an amazing job and she is not completely disconnected.
- Thank you to all the parents who have been in the building helping out and she is happy to welcome parents back in the school.
- This coming Monday, there will be a falconry assembly that is sponsored by the Creative Arts Council. This will be the first all-school assembly since prior to March 2020. This will be an outdoor assembly and the students will wear their tie-dye shirts for spirit day.
- There are conferences coming up next Tuesday through Thursday and there will be a 12:55pm dismissal time. The conferences are offered both in person and virtually.

- Wednesday is Unity Day and the students are encouraged to wear orange.
- Still short staffed but will be hiring a math tutor and curriculum specialist. The district has allowed all schools to hire a 2nd building substitute. Our school is losing the first building substitute to an internship and now we will need two substitutes. Please spread the word and encourage people to apply via Kelly Services.

PTO Liaison

Elisa Root

- Extended thanks to everyone.
- New staff – Ms. Ayers (reading tutor), Ms. Adams (reading tutor) will start Monday, Mrs. Calvo (K-3 English language teacher), and Mrs. Shilke (substitute Principal).
- Tie dye event was a success.
- 2 parents volunteers will now be allowed in the classroom at one time. They do not need to be vaccinated, but must be masked.
- 10/29/2021 there will be an author visit from Catherine Gorski O'Connor who will be running a writing workshop with grades 2-4.
- 11/20/2021 is a professional development day (election day) and there will be no school.
- 11/11/2021 is Veterans Day and there will be school.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

Address Directory

Leslie Williams

- There is a pandemic special of \$75 to promote your business in both the directory and the Tiger Tidbits.

Halloween BOO/Yard Cards LLC

Leslie Williams

- There is a calendar/link on the Yard Cards LLC website for the open slots.
- If you purchase a single BOO for \$45, \$5 gets donated to the PTO. Neighborhood BOOs are available too for a larger donation.

Jump Start Read for the Record

Leslie Williams

- The books were donated by an E-W family.
- The books are delayed due to global supply chain issues, but the hope is they will be here by 10/28/2021.

Maple Craft

Leslie Williams

- New fundraiser including maple products.
- Looking for a chair.
- 30% profit to the PTO.

Scoops & Sprinkles

Leslie Williams

- Battle of the Schools – there are currently 12 schools participating.
- Runs from 10/25/2021-10/30/2021. 10% of all purchases where E-W is mentioned will go to the PTO. The winner of the entire battle will get an extra 10% of all sales.

SEPTO

Amy Burlingame

- There has been no guidance provided as to what happens when we go into quarantine for those with specialized education plans. This is occurring district wide and state wide. The state has not required special education be followed 1:1.
- There is a request that parents put in writing what the expectations are when their child is in quarantine regarding their services.

Stop & Shop Bag program**Stephanie Carvalho**

- Being run through the Stop & Shop in the Jordan Lane plaza.
- Bags are \$2.50 each and for each one sold, \$1 goes back to the PTO.

WSPC**Shana Smith**

- Author in residence is doing an evening event at Webb School. There is limited space available and is limited to 25 total families. This will occur on October 26, 2021 from 6pm – 7pm. If there is a greater interest, they may increase the space capacity or hold another event.
- Walk to school was successful.
- Sally Dastoli presented SBAC data at the BOE and the data was demonstrating the baseline.

NEW BUSINESS**Youth Lacrosse****Shana Smith**

- Free clinic being offered on 10/17/2021 from 2pm to 3:15pm. Request to post on Facebook page.

Open Forum:

- Shana asked about Wish List and a discussion on Committee roles/responsibilities/restrictions. The committee proposes the purchase of two items for teachers: 1 standing desk and 1 standing workstation/organizer, motioned by Christen and Autumn.
- Leslie, Stephanie, and Laura (the Board) are not in favor of the wish list purchase as they feel it does not provide for a daily, direct impact to students, thus risking our 501c3 status for a purchase that in their opinion does not fully meet the purpose of EWPTO. E-W requested 30 student desks this year as a part of their furniture order and did not receive them all, resulting in school supply money being used to purchase some student desks. The optics of using PTO funds to buy the 2 teacher standing desks is unfavorable in the Board's opinion, knowing that the school doesn't have enough student desks. The majority of attendees disagree, though it was discussed in great length.
- There was a vote to purchase the two standing desks. 1 No, 9 Yes, 1 Abstention (Co-President to break a tie if needed), 1 Attendee left early.
- Christen requested to resume her duties as Wish List Chair, after she previously resigned due to the above conflict.
- Members of the Wish List committee suggested that Leslie, as Co-President, attend Wish List meetings/discussions on items that are being purchased/approved by the committee.
- Christen suggested having an anonymous suggestion box/survey asking parents about their interest/disinterest in EWPTO.
- Lauren Rhines suggested best practice guidelines be put in place for Committees and offered to assist.
- Amy Burlingame expressed interest in chairing Boon Supply fundraiser.
- Spiritwear possible new products reviewed by Leslie. A tablet case was suggested as a product.

Next meeting 11/11/2021**Closing Remarks****Leslie Williams****Adjourn:** 9:15pm