



Emerson-Williams PTO

Meeting Minutes for

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Attendees

Burlingame, Amy	Carvalho, Stephanie	Hernandez, Andrea	Keyes, Elizabeth
Mattatall, Colleen	Root, Elisa	Skaparas, Laura (online)	Szczepanski, Anna
Thakur, Neela	Williams, Leslie		

Welcome

Leslie Williams

- Call to order at 7:01pm. Thank you for coming tonight.
- A big thank you to the Cheer Committee (Colleen, Karla, and Autumn) for hosting the Thank You Thursdays and all the hard work that goes into organizing. Thank you to all that contributed money to fund these great ongoing staff events. Donations are still welcome for future events.
- A big thank you to the Book Fair Committee and all volunteers that helped Colleen and Amy host another awesome Scholastic Bookfair.
- Hoping to have kid/family events using the budgeted \$250 toward family fun. Ideas include a talent show, game night, book exchange, yoga night, Parents Night Out and a Wells House Candle fundraiser.
- Looking for chairpersons to assist with sports events also.
- February 22, 2022 is National Bus Driver Day. Due to no school, observing on Feb 23
- The Board is almost done modifying the survey created by Lauren and once this is done it will be sent to Neela for approval. The survey is in re: volunteerism, events, fundraisers, money spent... What parents want from the PTO.
- The last day to submit information for the e-newsletter is 2/28/2022.

Secretary's Report

Stephanie Carvalho

- Stephanie asked for everyone to review the minutes from the 11/11/2021 meeting.
- Approval of 11/11/2021 meeting minutes motioned by Colleen and Neela.
- Stephanie sent the thank you notes around for the members to read. Thank you notes from all staff for Dunkin treats, Grade 5 teachers, Mrs. Emmanuel, and Grade 4 teachers.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Skaparas

- The current PTO bank balance is \$19,880.
- Next month the balance will reflect the teacher fund and the cash box for the book fair.
- Class pictures brought in \$2119 and the 6th grade opt out brought in \$480 for the 6th grade.

- Expenses in the amount of \$713 for t-shirts for 6th grade and also several for Wish List items.
- Not reflected at this time is about \$30 for the labeling for the Nutmeg books.
- The Budget Committee needs to be developed and the plan is to meet between 3/2022-4/2022. If interested in joining the committee email treasurer@ewpto.com.
- Expenses currently slated for PE, Nutmeg Books balance, Media Center, Music, and 6th Grade.
- Motion by Colleen and seconded by Amy is to reallocate the money from Jumpstart Read For the Record (books donated by E-W parent this year) and Nutmeg balance which is just under \$1000 to the Wish List for those who have not had requests granted this school year. Discussed and clarified.
- There were 9 yay, 1 abstention and 0 nay to have the money reallocated to Wish List this school year.

Principal's Remarks

Neela Thakur

- Staff has been happy in February thus far as January has been difficult after winter break.
- There have been 0 cases of COVID for many days in a row now.
- The nurse has been able to breathe as opposed to January she was unable to give her full attention to the students with minor issues.
- The Zen Den created by the Cheer Committee was appreciated by staff and it was heaven. There were positive remarks by the staff and a lot of TLC was put into the project.
- Book Fair brought a sense of normalcy to have people come back into the school. It was an exciting week and there was much appreciation for the parents who helped.
- There will be a mini vacation from 2/18/2022 - 2/22/2022.
- The district is still waiting on information for the mask mandate. At this time each school district is supposed to make their own decision. In an informal poll the middle school and high school are ready to say yes to no masks and the elementary schools are not ready.
- At E-W there is a 29% vaccination rate while the entire elementary community is at 35%. Of the 12-18-year-olds vaccinated, the rate is 75%. Not all staff agree and the hope is not to cause a divide in the staff.
- There is a high number of staff vaccinated district wide.
- The staffing has been good. Still need long term kindergarten sub filled. There are currently 4 pregnant teachers. Down 1 paraprofessional position. Mrs. Jahne will re-retire at the end of this school year.
- Ms. Fortuna and Ms. Florio will be getting married.
- As of now, the end of the school year is 6/17/2022 which is a half day. This is subject to change depending on snow days. No word yet from Mr. Emmett on Juneteenth holiday vs more snow days changing the last day of school.

PTO Liaison

Elisa Root

- Thanks to the families who have donated to Huskython. The sixth grade was selling \$1 paper flames and for \$5 students participated in spirit week (2/11/2022-2/17/2022).
- Thanks to the PTO for the Holiday Lunch and the Thankful Thursdays from the Cheer Committee.
- Thank you to those who contributed to the CCMC PJ Day – raised \$645.
- There are two new building subs – Daniel Lopez and John Lotas. New long term 5th grade sub – Michelle Aguilar. New math tutor – Joe Kaminski and new para – Ashley Picard.
- 3/2/2022 is early dismissal.
- Progress reports go out on 3/18/2022.
- Conferences for all students will occur from 3/22/2022 - 3/24/2022 and there will be early dismissals those days.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

Address Directory**Leslie Williams**

- The directories have been proofed and are in production. The ETA is 2/15/2022.
- The hope is to have them in hand by the end of the upcoming week.

Book Fair**Colleen Mattatall/Amy Burlingame**

- Made almost as much as what was made in the fall.
- Parents purchased books and looked at the teacher wish lists.
- E-wallet worked well for staff.
- Books were given to Mrs. Miller, Social Worker.
- Lots of kids were able to purchase on kids only days.
- There were parents who came to the book fair whose children will be entering E-W next year.

Butter Braids**Open Position (Leslie Williams)**

- Open position for any volunteer to chair. A very easy fundraiser.
- Selling between 2/25/2022-3/11/2022 and the forms are already in the teacher mailboxes.
- The profit is on a sliding scale based on total sold.
- Pick up is on 3/24/2022 with location TBD.

Cheer**Colleen Mattatall**

- We now have permission to bring in foods made by families which makes things better, easier, and cheaper.
- We understand there are some staff with dietary restrictions and did a survey to get other ideas of what staff would like to see.
- \$350 was donated for the luncheon and plasticware was purchased for the lounge as some staff mentioned a lack thereof.
- Spoke to Mrs. Miller about Wellness Week. She teamed up with Karla and Autumn and they will do wellness week once a week for the year and the day of the week that was chosen was Thursday and named Thank You Thursdays. This current week included a puzzle, soda, and pretzels. Next week will be a Kokomo theme with non-alcoholic drinks, backdrop and disposable cameras.
- There is a brunch themed luncheon on 3/3/2022.

Munson's Chocolates**Open Position (Leslie Williams)**

- Open position for any volunteer to chair. A very easy fundraiser.
- Running from 2/11/2022-2/25/2022.
- Orders arrive in March and the day is TBD. Easter this year is on 4/17/2022.
- Profit is between 35 and 50% depending on the product.
- The forms are in the teacher mailboxes.

Strawberry Festival**Colleen Mattatall**

- It was good to have it on a Friday per previous feedback.
- Maybe thinking of having it occur again.
- Will ask around and put it out there to see if anyone wants to run it or help out.

WSPC**Colleen Mattatall**

- Main topic of last WSPC meeting was DARE. Each month discussion occurs about DARE and Dollars for Scholars.
- The police department is having staffing issues and would like to bring DARE back.
- There was discussion about 5th grade not receiving health curriculum in 2020.
- DARE is built into the SEL curriculum.
- It was learned that the fifth grade brings up smoking, drinking and vaping. Some of the current sixth grade teachers think the students need DARE.
- The middle school health classes also have lessons.
- There is discussion on internet safety around digital footprint, online friends and safety.
- WSPC wants to bring back Scott Driscoll and Mr. Emmett has verbally agreed to this.
- Walk to School is on 5/4/2022.
- Screen Free week was discussed.

- WSPC volunteer recognition awards is coming up. 1 volunteer to be recognized per school. The WSPC voted to not have a ceremony but will be buying a plaque for each school and are encouraging the PTO to recognize the nominee.
- The forms will need to be submitted by March and voting on the nominee will occur in the April PTO meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Committees

Leslie Williams

- Budget committee members are needed.
- Nominations committee will need two volunteers for the open board positions, definitely two co-presidents and a secretary. New positions are to begin 7/1/2022.

Open Forum:

- Amy is thankful that school is somewhat normal.
- Field trips are still off.

Next meeting 3/10/2022

Closing Remarks

Leslie Williams

Adjourn: 8:45pm