



Emerson-Williams Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Inc.

Meeting Minutes for

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Attendees

Pickett, Jessie	Skaparas, Laura (online)	Smith, Shana	Szczepanski, Anna
Thakur, Neela	Williams, Leslie		

Welcome

Leslie Williams

- Call to order at 7:03pm.
- Thank you for coming tonight.
- Welcome to our 1st guest speaker in I don't know how long – Mr. Jessie Pickett.

Secretary's Report

Leslie Williams on behalf of Stephanie Carvalho

- Leslie asked for everyone to review the minutes from the 02/10/2022 meeting.
- Approval of 02/10/2022 meeting minutes motioned by Shana and Neela.
- Leslie sent the thank you notes around for the members to read. Thank you notes for Teacher Fund from Ruth George, Deb Byrne, Ann-Marie Moore, Rhea Emmanuel, Grade 2 Teachers (Elisa, Jamie, Stephanie), and Grade 4 Teachers (Joanne, Katie, and Summer). Thank you notes for Thankful Thursdays from Ann-Marie Moore, Rhea Emmanuel, and Grade 2 Teachers (Elisa, Jamie, Stephanie). Thank you note for Scholastic Dollars from Ruth George.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Skaparas

- The current PTO bank balance is \$22,069.74.
- Deposits made for Amazon Smile donation \$33.85, Sixth Grade Opt Out for \$750.00, Munson's Chocolates for \$1,392.13, and Scholastic Book Fair for \$3,247.44.
- Expenses for various wish list items totaling \$1,160.46, Scholastic Book Fair check for \$1,698.89, Dollars for Scholars donation for \$375.00.
- Not reflected at this time is \$30 for the labeling for the Nutmeg books, \$375 for donation to The Primary Project (scholarship for Open Choice students), Wish List reimbursement of \$286.08 to Mrs. Richard for Air Purifier, and some envelopes received for 6th Grade Opt Out.
- Budget committee members are still needed. The Budget Committee needs to be developed and the plan is to meet between March-April 2022. If interested in joining the committee email treasurer@ewpto.com.

Principal's Remarks

Neela Thakur

- Masks: Some are wearing them and some are not, but all are getting along.
- Trimester 2 ends tomorrow 3/11 and progress reports will be emailed to parents 3/18.

- Thank you to the Cheer Committee for the Thankful Thursdays. Today was a candy cart and treats were delivered to staff.
- Copy Fairies: Thanks to Karla Pelarinos who attended the staff leadership meeting to discuss staff needs. There will now be in and out boxes for copies in the copy room near the kindergarten classrooms. Parents will be coming in as they are able to process the copies needed.
- Babies: Lots of babies being born. Mrs. Sanford (Kindergarten) had a baby girl, Olivia, today! Mrs. Clermont (Grade 5), Mrs. Reynolds (Grade 6), and Karla Calvo-Piedra (EL Teacher) are all expecting babies.
- K Substitute: Hired a Kindergarten sub just in the nick of time with one week to overlap with Mrs. Sanford.
- SDMS Family Night for our E-W 6th Graders is on 3/16.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are on 3/22, 23, and 24, which are all half day dismissal at 12:55 PM. Our goal is for every student's family to have a conference instead of only if there are concerns.
- Crazy Socks Spirit day is on 3/25
- April Vacation for Spring Break is 4/11-15
- Spring Picture Day is 4/21
- As of now, the last day of school is Tuesday, 6/21 and is a half day, but there is a rumor that the BOE could vote to end the year on 6/17.
- There is a Webb parent that used to be a parent at E-W that would like to work with our school community to hold a community dinner to break the fast during Ramadan. It would be a Muslim celebration dinner in E-W cafeteria. Potentially max at a certain capacity. Potential date May 2 or 3, but currently TBD. Any assistance with this event is greatly appreciated. Leslie offered to post on the EWPTO Facebook page to advertise to the community and boost attendance.

Special Guest

Mr. Jessie Pickett

- Jessie, School Family Community Partnership Liaison, introduced himself as the person that supports the engagement of student families with the school and the PTO.
- He started off by contacting new families first to offer his help with resources and provide support.
- ParentSquare is the newest family engagement tool for this school year. There will be a big push to use it next school year. It's a big change because it offers a change in the language.
- Teachers recently had or will be having ParentSquare training to use for their classroom communication next year.
- Offering help with transition to SDMS and RSVP'ing for the Family Night.
- Plans for an Incoming Kindergarten event during the summer, but would need PTO sponsorship. To encompass structured time, free play, and parent info and resources too. Currently working with a Highcrest parent, but welcomes help from all.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

Butter Braids/Cookie Dough

Open Position (Leslie Williams)

- Tomorrow 3/11 is the last day to submit orders.
- The profit is on a sliding scale based on total sold.
- Pick up is on 3/24/2022 at 2 Sunrise Terrace 4:30-6:30PM.

Cheer

Leslie Williams on behalf of Colleen Mattatall

- Cheer is doing an awesome job with Thankful Thursdays; well received by staff.
- We heard brunch was great too.

Munson's Chocolates

Open Position (Leslie Williams)

- Profit approximately \$567.72

Nominations**Open Positions**

- Nominations committee will need two volunteers to solicit nominees for the four open Board positions for school year 2022-2023: 2 Co-Presidents, 1 Secretary, and 1 Treasurer. New positions begin 7/1/2022.

Strawberry Festival**Leslie Williams on behalf of Colleen Mattatall**

- Scheduled for Friday, 5/20 at 5pm
- No luck with musical entertainment yet, but still looking
- There will be a dunk tank and possibly raffles and games

WSPC**Shana Smith**

- Main topic of last WSPC meeting was Dollars for Scholars and how the organization decided not to pursue a change to their bylaws that would include Open Choice students rather than only Wethersfield resident students of WPS.
- Leslie clarified that EWPTO still donated to Dollars for Scholars, but also to The Primary Project, as scholarship fund that is for Open Choice Students. The overall donation amount remained the same for the school year, with the total being split between the two scholarship funds so as to support types of students equally. Withholding a donation altogether from Dollars for Scholars would not be inclusive of our Wethersfield resident students; therefore, an even split was decided upon at the prior school year's budget committee meeting.
- There is more discussion on internet safety around digital footprint, online friends, and safety. WSPC is working with Mr. Emmett to share the cost of bringing Scott Driscoll's Internet Safety Concepts presentation to WPS for both students and parents.
- Walk to School is on 5/4/2022.
- WSPC volunteer recognition awards is coming up. 1 volunteer to be recognized per school. No ceremony, but a plaque for each school and WSPC is encouraging PTOs to recognize the nominee. The forms will need to be submitted by April 1 and voting on the nominee will occur in the April PTO meeting.

NEW BUSINESS**Open Forum****Next meeting 04/21/2022, due to Spring Break****Closing Remarks****Leslie Williams**

- Thank you for attending tonight. Quickest meeting in the history of EWPTO to my knowledge.

Adjourn: 8:01 PM