



Emerson-Williams Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Inc.

Meeting Minutes for

Thursday, May 12, 2022

**Attendees**

|                          |                  |                           |                   |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Amy Burlingame           | Andrea Hernandez | Pam Jones (online)        | Colleen Mattatall |
| Karla Pelarinos (online) | Elisa Root       | Alyssa Sanzaro            | Anna Szczepanski  |
| Neela Thakur (online)    | Anthony Uccello  | Stephanie Ugarte (online) | Leslie Williams   |

**Welcome**

**Leslie Williams**

- Call to order at 7:00pm.
- Welcome to all the new faces and online attendees. Thank you for joining us this evening.

**Secretary's Report**

**Leslie Williams on behalf of Stephanie Carvalho**

- Requested the minutes from the April 2022 meeting be reviewed and approved.
- Motions to approve by Anna and Ms. Root.
- Sent around thank you notes from Pam Jones, Mary Lacy, and also from Kate Bermingham, Special Education Teacher, with notes from 4 of her students thanking us for the new carpet for their classroom Wish List request fulfilled using Scholastic Dollars.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Leslie Williams on behalf of Laura Skaparas**

- The current PTO bank balance is \$20,818.74
- Transactions pending are for P.E. dept budgeted purchases of floor hockey equipment and also air horns for Field Day, as well as 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class gift.
- In the last month, expenses were paid for 6<sup>th</sup> grade yard signs, paying \$400 for a DonorsChoose projects for xylophones for Music's budgeted purchase, \$232.14 DonorsChoose project for Mrs. Kardys' air purifier, Cheer Committee ice cream for staff \$306.42. Income was for a PayPal transfer to the bank of \$78.75 for a combo of both Munson's and Butterbraids, \$137 and \$101 respectively for community bag programs, \$108 for WolfPack Game, and \$340 for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Opt Out.
- Budget committee met on 5/2/2022 and had a great meeting with a few changes for next school year.

**Principal's Remarks**

**Neela Thakur**

- Neela has Covid but is doing ok and felt well enough to attend remotely.
- Thank you to the Cheer Committee for all that was done for Staff Appreciation Week.
- Thank you to Leslie for attending the Incoming Kindergarten Orientation and providing information on EWPTO and inviting them all to Strawberry Festival.

- Grades 3-6 will be wrapping up SBAC tomorrow for Math and Language Arts. Students are doing an amazing job. It's untimed so they can take their time checking over their work. The majority of students are working slowly and carefully, and also taking breaks too. Students that are not finished will have time to do some make-ups.
- SBAC results will be out in August. Student results get mailed and you should see them in the mail in September.
- Now that we're in the May/June timeframe, it really does feel more like the end of a normal school year with Strawberry Festival, Field Day, and field trips all coming up soon. It feels good.
- Friday, 6/17/2022 is the official last day of school and is early dismissal at 12:55 PM.
- Recently, we've seen an increase in mask wearing.
- Cafeteria is still using forward facing tables with 2-3 students per bench seat.
- We have not yet put all students in the gym all at once. We're not able to do that yet. But other than that, it's business as usual at E-W.
- The only exception is that Mrs. Maffuid, the School Nurse, is still very busy with Covid call fielding and helping parents with Covid questions.

#### **PTO Teacher Liaison**

#### **Elisa Root**

- Absolutely amazing staff appreciation week. The gratitude wall was so bright and cheery. It felt wonderful! Thank you so much for the food truck, snacks, and ice cream. We all are feeling very spoiled this week.
- Pages for Peace (Ukraine) raised \$3272. Thank you for your generosity.
- Save the dates: Field Day 12:30-2:30 PM on 5/26, Hat Day is 5/27 which is also a half day, no school on 5/30 for Memorial Day, wacky hair day is 6/10 and last day of school is half day on 6/17.
- 6/17 is also the day progress reports will go home to parents (ParentSquare).
- Mrs. Jahne is re-retiring from E-W and her last day will be 5/27 due to her scheduled leave in June.

#### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Budget**

#### **Leslie Williams on behalf of Laura Skaparas**

- Budget meeting took place in person on 5/2/2022 with Laura, Lauren, Colleen, Anthony, Leslie, and Stephanie (online).
- Proposed budget was presented at EWPTO meeting. We'll vote on it in June.
- For Expenses, we added back in \$1,750 for Creative Arts Council, \$150 increase to Teacher Fund, and added in anticipated expense for online Quickbooks. We did not add in STEAM Enrichment.
- For Fundraisers, we removed ones not doing well or that no one missed. Since the district is looking into adding an authorization check box for parents to allow their name/email to be released to classroom parents, we have not budgeted nor planned for an Address Directory. However, advertising is still a fundraiser for the newsletter.
- Laura suggested doing away with the very old and slow EWPTO laptop/Quickbooks in favor of online Quickbooks. Motion to approve and seconded by Colleen Mattatall and Andrea Hernandez for up to \$100 for use in this school year and for implementation of online Quickbooks going forward. 11 ay, 0 nay, 1 abstain.

#### **Cheer**

#### **Colleen Mattatall**

- Today's Thank You Thursday was the Oasis decorating the teacher's lounge door and decorated a sign on the inside the lounge that looks like a window looking out onto a tropical beach. Something very relaxing.
- Next week will be the last Thank You Thursday and will be a Baked Goods Bonanza and a SignUpGenius has gone out for baked goods or monetary donations.

#### **Nominations**

#### **Open Positions (Leslie Williams)**

- Nomination for position of Secretary is Jessica Peltier.
- Nomination for position of Treasurer is Candace Schaff.
- Nominations for a co-President position currently are Anthony Uccello, Lauren Rhines, Andrea Hernandez, and Colleen Mattatall. Colleen specified her interest in a term of only 1 year.
- Leslie suggested that we allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Co-President position for 2022-2023 school year only be a 1-year term due to not having a 1<sup>st</sup> year Co-President this school year. Motion to approve by Colleen and seconded by Amy. 11 ay, 0 nay, 1 abstain.
- New EWPTO Board will be voted in at the June Meeting and we are still accepting nominations.

### **Strawberry Festival**

### **Colleen Mattatall**

- Scheduled for Friday, 5/20 from 5pm-8pm.
- Colleen has confirmed two food trucks: Sabores Mexican Food truck and Blue Chip Creamery.
- There will be music played and it's very much like an amped up dinner on the lawn.
- There will be raffle baskets and also come contests, such as hula hoop contest.
- There will be a dunk tank. Unfortunately, Mr. Emmett can't make it because he has Covid.
- There will be tickets for both raffle baskets and dunk tank.
- Volunteers are needed to sell tickets and manage the dunk tank throughout the night.
- Families are encouraged to come and either bring or purchase dinner and have fun with the community.

### **WSPC**

### **Colleen Mattatall**

- The district continues down the path of a huge renovation of all schools to state of the art buildings to the tune of \$300 million dollars. The Town is in need of \$170 million and therefore a November referendum will be out for a vote.
- Schools need huge maintenance in HVAC systems and with 5 elementary schools that's approximately \$32 million for HVAC systems only.
- The proposal is for a new school to be built adjacent to Highcrest. The old Highcrest building would be a swing school during renovation.
- Charles-Wright Elementary School would come offline leaving only 4 elementary schools in the district. This would require redistricting. There currently is unbalanced enrollment across the district.
- Two new schools would be built – Highcrest and Hanmer.
- Two current schools would be renovated – Webb and Emerson-Williams.
- It is a long process and there are lots of steps to it along with a vote by taxpayers. Money is needed to hire an architect, etc. to continue on this path.
- Autumn Struk is E-W's Volunteer Award recipient. Congratulations, Autumn! We can recognize her at the June Meeting as she said she'll be in attendance.
- The town council voted on the town budget. It passed with a decrease of \$400,000 of the 4% increase that the Board of Education requested. They do not anticipate any changes in staff.
- District is looking to take over the transportation of Open Choice students using Autumn Transportation buses.
- Mr. Emmett commented that there are more maternity leaves now than he ever remembers.
- Each school building now has 2 building subs.
- The district is still actively recruiting and hiring.
- WECC is planning district wide playdates, approximately 5, for incoming kindergarteners at all 5 elementary schools. Dates TBD.

### **Sixth Grade Committee**

### **Autumn Struk**

- Pine Acres is scheduled 6/2 with a rain date of 6/9 - deposit paid
- Empower field trip is scheduled 6/14 - deposit paid
- Step Up is scheduled for 6/13
- Yard signs bought for each student's yard
- We have inquiries in for student gifts and teacher gifts

- School gift is a banner
- Yearbook is in the works

**School Pictures****Lauren Rhines/Shana Smith**

- Tomorrow 5/13 is the last day to order spring pictures for those that were photographed in order to get free shipping to the school.
- Class photos will arrive a little later on and be shipped directly to school also.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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**Open Forum**

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**Closing Remarks****Leslie Williams**

- Thank you for attending and have a good night.

**Adjourn:** 7:58 PM

Next Meeting is on Thursday, 6/9/2022 at 7 PM