



Emerson-Williams Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Inc.

Meeting Minutes for

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Attendees

Amy Burlingame	Stephanie Carvalho (online)	Amy Gallagher-Cuadras (online)	Andrea Hernandez
Pam Jones (online)	Colleen Mattatall	Jessica Peltier	Lauren Rhines
Elisa Root	Shana Smith	Christen Sousa (online)	Autumn Struk
Anna Szczepanski	Neela Thakur	Anthony Uccello	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.
- Nominations are open for all EWPTO Board positions.
- For folks online, meeting documents are available at <https://www.ewpto.com/mtgdocs/>
- To vote this evening, be sure you've submitted your membership request at <https://www.ewpto.com/membership/>

Secretary's Report

Stephanie Carvalho

- Requested the minutes from the May 2022 meeting be reviewed and approved.
- Motions to approve by Colleen and Lauren.
- Leslie passed out three thank you cards at the meeting from Karen Dalke, Kathy Haggerty, and the 4th Grade team, Joanne Charbonneau, Summer Cookson, and Katie Nunn.

Treasurer's Report

Leslie Williams on behalf of Laura Skaparas

- Still need a nomination for Treasurer.
- Received a letter from Dollars for Scholars announcing our award recipient. Congratulations to our Dollars for Scholars award recipient, Rosario Tine Jr.. Leslie passed it around the letter and a thank you note from Mr. Tine.
- PTO statement is not available until 6/10/2022 so no updated financials.
- Expenses included art, physical education, music, strawberry festival, cheer, 6th grade: gifts, reimbursements, and Pine Acres field trip..
- Income was for the 6th grade field trip dues and Amazon Smile.
- Balance is \$16,528.12 with pending transactions.
- 6th grade still has more expenses coming up. Additional transactions pending are strawberry fest and class pictures deposits.

Principal's Remarks**Neela Thakur**

- Happy last PTO meeting of the school year. We will miss those for which this is their last meeting.
- Thank you, Autumn for all you have done.
- Thank you, Leslie, Stephanie and Laura for taking on the leadership roles.
- Thanks to Lauren and Colleen for a great Strawberry Fest. It was very special and amazing. It was a long time coming and this meant a lot to the students.
- Staff: there will be a shift of 9 staff next year. Karen Jayne retired officially on 5/27/2022; Jacke Gacey – paraprofessional is retiring. Two staff have resigned and will be employed by another district: Carissa Miller and Emily Keel. There were three long term subs this year: Ethan, Rebecca and Michelle. Allie Reynolds, grade 6, will be taking a 1 year maternity leave. Karla Calvo will be on maternity leave through Thanksgiving. Two staff will be getting married: Ms. Fortuna and Ms. Florio.
- 6/17/2022 is the last day and a half day. Progress reports will be sent out and there will be a virtual award ceremony on this day.
- A lot of staff and students still utilizing masks.
- In the fall the cafeteria will be resuming using regular face to face tables.
- School-wide events in the gym are still unable to occur and have not been held since March 2020.
- 6/10/2022 is Wacky Hair Day and Step Up Ceremony night for the 6th grade at SDMS.
- Meet & greet will be on 8/30/2022.
- First day of school is 9/01/2022.

PTO Teacher Liaison**Elisa Root**

- Heard good things about the Strawberry Fest.
- Thanks to the Field Day volunteers.
- Mrs. Dalke raised \$1579 for the American Heart Association.
- Library books that are past due need to be returned to Mrs. George.
- Star Scores went home today and are just a snap shot of one day on a particular test.
- The Wethersfield Library came to the school on 6/6/2022 to talk about summer reading program. Theme is Oceans of Possibilities which begins on 6/20/2020.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS**Reminder****Leslie Williams**

- Nominations are still open for Board positions.
- If interested in a position, please let us know. You can even nominate yourself.

Committee Reports:**6th Grade****Autumn Struk**

- Done a lot this year. Amazing committee.
- Got gifts for the kids: personalized bag, Chic Fil A gift card, charging device, SDMS t-shirt.
- Maybe able to buy more.
- Had a budget of over \$13,000.
- Yard signs were amazing and purchased from MinuteMan Press which came out to \$10/student.
- Dues, Lyman Fundraiser, and families that contributed \$120 for opt out. Those that did not participate in opt out were asked to pay dues for field trips.
- Empower is coming up on Tuesday.
- Teacher gifts/year books will be given on 6/16/2022.
- Pine Acres was amazing, perfect weather.

Cheer**Colleen Mattatall**

- Committee decided not to purchase gifts for staff life events.
- Think Committee remains under budget.
- Great year.

Nominations**Open Positions (Leslie Williams)**

- Announced names of the current nominees for Board positions: Antonio Uccello, Colleen Mattatall, Andrea Hernandez, and Lauren Rhines for Co-President, and Jessica Peltier for Secretary. Treasurer position still needs a nominee. Nominations are still open for all Positions.
- Colleen Mattatall clarified she is only interested in nomination for the 2nd year Co-President position as a one-year term. At the 5/12/2022 EWPTO meeting the membership did vote in approval of this position being one year.

Strawberry Fest**Colleen Mattatall**

- Most attended event ever.
- Each time this event was held the amount raised fluctuated between \$800 - \$6000.
- Brought in \$2,500 this year.
- Great event. Need more community events.
- Lauren thinks next year for the raffle that the info be sent out through the teachers than the classroom parents.
- Thanks to the room parents and parent volunteers.
- Mr. Shoemaker's basket earned the most tickets.

WSPC**Colleen Mattatall**

- Last meeting held recently.
- Charles Wright raised \$18,000 with an Apex fundraiser. They pep up the kids about a topic. The money raised is split between the company and the school.
- Congratulations to Autumn Struk who was the E-W WSPC Volunteer Award Recipient. Colleen made a speech about Autumn's contributions to EWPTO.
- Autumn responded to compliments that were brought up about her commitment to the school community. Thankful for the recognition.

Wish List**Christen Sousa**

- Over the budget currently.
- Request received on 5/19/2022 from Mrs. Dawson asking for \$53.97 for the three kindergarten classes to purchase caterpillars. She purchased them on her own.
- Motion to reimburse made by Christen.
- Voted and approved by all members, one abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations offered one last time and closed prior to each vote, respectively.

The current 2nd Year Co-President abstains from voting in order to break any tied votes.

Vote For Co-Presidents:

- 2nd year Co-President for a one-year position. Colleen Mattatall is sole nominee. Voted and approved, one abstained.
- 1st year Co-President for a two-year position. Anthony Uccello as well as Andrea Hernandez and Lauren Rhines, to share the position as a duo, are the nominees. Verbally motioned and voted for the position to allow for a two person duo, approved, one abstained.
- Vote for 1st Year Co-President position between the 2 nominees (Anthony and Andrea/Lauren) taken via paper in person and via chat message for those on Google Meet. Votes counted by Elisa Root. Andrea and Lauren received the most votes. Approved, one abstained.

Vote For Treasurer:

- Treasurer position still needs a nominee.
- Colleen asked if Anthony would be interested in being Treasurer.
- Anthony then expressed interest in the Treasurer position as sole nominee.
- Treasurer is a one year term.
- Voted and approved, one abstained.

Vote For Secretary:

- Jessica Peltier is the sole nominee.
- Secretary is a one year term.
- Voted and approved, one abstained.

Vote For 2022-2023 Budget:

- Only modification made to budget is for online Quickbooks at \$50/month for 3 users.
- Colleen and Lauren made a motion to approve 2022-2023 Budget. Vote approved, one abstained.
- At the meeting we discovered that last year's budget was off on number of students for the \$42 per student EWPTO donations to 6th grade. Motioned and 2nd by Autumn and Christen to approve up to \$200 for transportation expenses for Empower field trip buses, if needed. Vote approved, one abstained.

Open Forum

- Elisa brought up playground issues that a couple of recess teachers brought up concerns that the material on the playground floor is deteriorating. This concern should be brought to the town for patches per Colleen.
- Shana brought up bringing the whittle equipment back. Neela noted that it has not come back due to COVID and that the gym is used for cafeteria on half days.
- Lauren brought up the kindergarten readiness playdates. Dates are 6/11, 6/25, 7/8, 7/22, 8/6, and 8/20. Lauren Rhines will be present at all but one event. There will be sign ups for each session.
- Incoming Kindergarten classes need five volunteers for the first five days of school to help with the kindergarten lunches.

Closing Remarks**Leslie Williams**

- Thank you, Stephanie for being the secretary for the last two years. I appreciate you so much.
- Stephanie also expressed her appreciation of Leslie.
- Unfortunately, Laura was unable to be with us but we wish were all the best.

Adjourn: 8:44 PM