

Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes
Monday October 17, 2022

Attendees:

Amy Burlingame	Amy Gallagher-Cuadras	Andrea Hernandez	Elizabeth Keyes
Colleen Mattatall	Kate Nadeau	Jessica Peltier	Lauren Rhines
Elisa Root	Nicole Sandillo	Stephanie Scanlon	Anna Szczepanski
Neela Thakur	Anthony Uccello	Leslie Williams	

Welcome: Colleen Mattatall

- Call to order 6:35pm
- Quick introduction of those in attendance

Secretary Report: Jessica Peltier

- Thank you notes passed around from many teachers for everything the PTO has done this year.
- Sign in passed around
- Briefly discussed how everyone should look through minutes from the September meeting, as they will be approved at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Anthony Uccello

- Current balance=\$15,179.25
- Book Fair profit: \$2,805.68, Hartford Athletics sold 48 tickets

Principal Report: Neela Thakur

- Ms. Thakur spoke about Restorative Practices (RP)
- Three year district shift which includes every single school in the district.
- Restorative Practice is a set of beliefs based on how to interact with each other and understanding that kids are all good. It is a way of approaching situations that is not punitive and focuses on building strong relationships.
- Two books:
 - "Building a Trauma Informed Restorative School" by Joe Brummer-actual facilitator for district.
 - "Circle Forward: Building a School Community" (Will be used more during years 2 & 3 as lessons)
- Last year was year 0: PD for adults
- This year is year 1 and in the classroom there will be two major focuses with RP
 - 1. Community Building Circles: A circle up time that happens every single day in the classroom, where every student has a voice. These can be an icebreaker type of topic asking how students are feeling today. The goal is that as the year moves forward, more difficult topics will be discussed but students will feel comfortable talking about it. These topics could include bullying, misbehavior, tragedy, traumatic events, etc.
 - 2. Classroom Respect Agreements: goal is to build a positive classroom community to help with encouraging safety and respect. This is a living document and can shift as the year continues. It includes four different types of relationships: student to student, student to teacher, teacher to student, & everyone to classroom environment.
- The goal of RP is that when a situation occurs all adults including the principal, teachers, staff, etc. down to the students all come out the other side feeling "repaired", better and more positive. This is a shift to a more mindful and reflective approach to building community within a school and working through challenging behaviors through dialogue.
- The idea of a parent clinic was brought up. That way we can better help support this new shift at home and everyone could be on the same page.

Teacher Report: Elisa Root

- Thank you to PTO for the chips and dip on Thank you Thursday.
- Snacks are once again being sold in the cafeteria during all lunches. No cash. Must have money on their accounts
- October 19th is Unity Day: wear orange
- FYI: Mrs. Nunn's after school club "Circle of Friends" is meeting once a month for an hour and could use help with donations of construction paper, markers, glue, gimp for bracelets, water, snacks, card games, etc.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Colleen mentioned that the committees were listed in alphabetical order and not by importance, in order to keep things fair
- Andrea passed around sign up for committees that still had available volunteer openings
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- Amy B. & Colleen: Book fair
 - Great turn out!
 - Made \$2,805.68
 - PTO gives \$100 worth of books to new teachers to help start their classroom libraries
 - So far \$600 worth of books has gone back to teachers this year.
- Colleen: Cheer & Color Run
 - Thank you, Thursday,: This week will be the apple harvest social. If interested in helping out, please contact Karla Pelarinos.
 - Kudos to Karla and Alyssa for a great Color Run event.
 - Leslie also took pictures at the event to update the website.
- Anthony: Hartford Athletics Fundraiser
 - Game was Saturday 9/17
 - Anthony made a public service announcement video that was posted
 - Sold 48 tickets with a profit of \$240
- Stephanie Scanlon: Holiday Store
 - Need to pick a date for the store to happen during the week of December 15th
 - Committee is going to look at the inventory in stock
 - Kate and Nicole volunteered to help out on the committee
 - Will possibly send out gift tags early so students are not struggling to write names that night
- Colleen: Membership Drive Fundraiser
 - Fundraiser to help start the year off
 - Only one family donated \$100 so the raffle winner this year was Andrea!
- Lauren: Trivia Night/Parents Night out
 - Will be held at the Pitkin Center on a Friday night in February
 - Looking for raffle donations
 - Outside host for trivia game
 - Refreshments and possibly BYOB

- Lauren: Room Parent
 - All classes now have a room parent
 - All volunteers got welcome packet that provided details of responsibilities
 - Room parent FB page is up and running.

- Lauren: School Pictures
 - Smooth two days of pictures for the school
 - Proofs were in two Fridays ago, so parents/guardians may order now
 - Retakes are on October 24: Parents should email teacher
 - If they were absent those two days, they will not be in the class photo

- Amy G-C.: Sixth Grade Committee
 - Three fundraisers going on: Lyman Pie, Fall Photos with Stephanie and Dinner at Puerto Vallarta on November 15th.
 - Students donated about \$675 in funds for a gift for Mr. Bubser
 - Class shirts are this week along with pumpkin painting activity
 - Strong committee representation with about 18-20 volunteers!
 - Idea from Anna S. was to have a 6th grade social for all the elementary schools to celebrate. The idea will be brought back to WSPC. The Pitkin Center offers Friday night hangouts.

- Andrea: Spirit wear
 - PTO made a profit of about \$540
 - Company said a possible shipping date of November 10th.

- Lauren: Sponsorship
 - Businesses donate money and will be featured on the PTO website, FB page, and newsletters
 - In total 5 area businesses have sponsored the EW PTO for a total of \$750.

- Lauren: Wishlist
 - Processed 4-5 requests
 - Bought a few fidget type of things for the paras to use
 - So far have spent about \$1,100 of the \$3000

- Colleen: Volunteers still needed for Cultural Fair, Chuck E Cheese, Tubing at Powder Ridge, Babysitter backups.
 - Buffalo Wild Wings dinner fundraiser on October 26th.
 - Have to show the voucher from in the Tiger Topics. Colleen will print extras to send out again

NEW BUSINESS

- Blacktop Project: Andrea
 - 4 Square and hopscotch will be painted on the blacktop in the loop so that students have something to do during the winter months outside.

- Paint was donated by Rings End
 - Asking for \$700 for the supplies and equipment
 - Colleen motioned to approve \$700, Liz seconded vote, all were in favor.
- Scarecrows on Main: Anna and family created a 1st place winning scarecrow!!!
 - Charles Wright wrote a very kind post of congratulations to EW for the win
- Tie Dye: Andrea
 - Andrea is kindly looking for more ways to help the PTO raise money.
 - She would like to have a silent auction of her tie dye shirts
 - Looking to coordinate this with an event: Parents Night Out or Strawberry Fest
- Popcorn Machine: Colleen
 - The PTO has a popcorn machine and Mrs. Jones was asking to borrow it for the BIPOC event on 11/3: All agreed to allow this to happen!

VOTES

1. The Color-Run budget went over by roughly \$279. Colleen motioned to exceed budget by no more than \$279. Lauren seconded the vote. All in favor of passing the vote.
2. September minutes passed: Ms. Root motioned to approve the September PTO minutes, Amy B. seconded the vote. All were in favor of passing.