

Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday January 9, 2023

Attendees:

Peggy Collette	Cate Craig	Andrea Hernandez	Colleen Mattatall
Kate Nadeau	Jessica Peltier	Lauren Rhines	Anna Szczepanski
Neela Thakur	Anthony Uccello		

Welcome: Colleen Mattatall

- Call to order 6:32pm
- Colleen briefly acknowledged what the PTO has accomplished so far this year:
 - Holiday Store: Thanks to Peggy, Kate, Nicole, & Stephanie.
 - Poinsettia Sale
 - Cheer Committee: Had a cookie & hot cocoa bar along with the Zen Den
 - Talent Show coming up
 - Parents Night Out coming up

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 November meeting, as they will be approved at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Anthony Uccello

- Current balance=\$20,007.80
- Holiday Store made \$2,632
- Pictures made \$1,884
- UCONN Bball made \$135
- 6th grade has \$5,703
- Wishlist expenses are \$2,563

Principal Report: Neela Thakur

- We are now in trimester 2, everyone should have received their child's progress reports a few weeks ago.
- Winter Concert was a huge success
- Shout out to all the parents who helped out with the Holiday Store
- All the staff is loving the Zen Den
- The staff raised \$625 during their 12 days of Christmas which they donated to Youth and Social Services
- January 19th will be the schoolwide JumpStart Read for the Record Day, all classes will read "Nigel and the Moon" and do some activities with the book
- January 23-27: Great Kindness Challenge Week. Teachers will be using actual curriculum to inspire more kindness among everyone.

Teacher Report: No Report

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dance Committee: Kate N.

- DJ is booked
- Friday April 28: 5:30-7:30

Spring Pictures: Lauren

- Will be held either April 19th or 23rd

Winter Bookfair: Colleen

- Changing up how shopping occurs. Now they will be splitting it up over two days for the classes
- There will still be a night for shopping
- Volunteers needed, parents or grandparents

Butter Braid and Cookie Dough Fundraiser: Jessica on behalf of Leslie Williams

- Butter braid and cookie dough fundraiser (both online and paper orders) begins Monday 2/27/2023 and ends Monday 03/13/2023.
- Profit varies based on the number of items sold. Though if sales are similar to last year, we should profit around \$1500.
- Online orders can be paid via credit card; though there's likely a credit card company fee. Paper orders are payable via cash or check payable to EWPTO.
- Order pick up date is Monday 03/27/2023 approximately 5:15–7:15PM at Leslie's house - 2 Sunrise Terrace. Items arrive frozen and MUST be picked 3/27, so mark your calendar.
- The order form will be available for review in the next week or two and when approved will be placed in the digital backpack and Facebook as we get closer to 2/27.

Talent Show: Jessica on behalf of Christen Sousa

- Talent show is scheduled for Friday 2/24 at 6 pm at Webb school
- Ms Root is signed on to be our DJ! (Yay!)
- Ms Clermont and Ms Kardys are signed on to be MCs (yay!)
- Sent out participation forms and currently have 31 acts signed up to participate! Also have 5 students signed up to help with backstage/lighting/music/art show.
- There will be an art show as well where artists can showcase their artwork!
- There will be a Preview Night on Tuesday, January 24th at EW from 5:30-7:30 for the signed up acts to come and show us their acts so we can preview and approve them. Acts do NOT need to be finalized, this is just to get an idea of what the kids will be doing. They'll get a golden ticket and be ready for the big night!
- Will be accepting more acts if students would still like to participate up until the Preview Night.
- Tickets for the Talent Show are \$2 - EW students are free. Tickets will go on sale soon. Flyers will be coming home.
- The 6th grade committee will be selling snacks and candy at intermission to benefit the 6th graders. They are encouraging families to bring cash to support this!
- Even if you don't have a child participating in the show, please plan to come! This is a fun time when the whole school comes together and celebrates each student's talents!

WSPC: Colleen

- At the meeting they talked about a podcast "Sold A Story" which is about the science of reading and how reading is taught in schools
- Sally Dastoli and Dawn Campbell had a presentation about WPS reading program
- The state is mandating that schools change their reading programs starting with grades K-2.
- Wethersfield has asked for a deferral to adopt the new reading program this year because Wethersfield is instituting a new math curriculum and two new programs would be a lot at once.
- Sally and Dawn will be coming to each PTO to discuss this further.
- Referendum did not pass: 42% voted yes.
- It failed in the Charles Wright and Highcrest districts, but passed in all the others.
- Invest in Wethersfield Committee: next meeting is January 25 at Charles Wright at 6:30 and open to ideas.
- The Sub Steering Committee is looking for volunteers to help create surveys to see what residents are interested in to help move forward with fixing the schools.
- Maintenance and Facilities meetings are open to the public and while you can't make statements or comments during the meeting you can stay after and ask those on the board.

Fundraisers:

- Taco Tuesday at Puerto Vallarta, January 10th. 20% of all proceeds goes to EW PTO
 - Easy \$800-\$1,500 in profit
- Tubing: Cate Craig
 - Sunday February 12th from 3-4:30, 40 tickets have been reserved but possibly 65 are available.
 - PTO is getting a 10% discount, but we decided to charge full price so that the extra \$4 a ticket creates a little fundraiser.
 - Tickets will be \$39
 - Cate will create a flier and send it out with students this week.
 - Money should be in by January 30th
- Wolf Pack Game: Anthony
 - Game will be Saturday February 18th at 7pm
 - Ticket price is \$15 with the PTO making a \$3/ticket profit
 - Those going should wear EW gear

Items to vote on:

1. November PTO minutes: Colleen made a motion to approve the November minutes, Lauren seconded the motion, all were in favor. Minutes approved.

FUTURE DATES & EVENTS: Lauren

1. Book Fair in spring will be from 2/27-3/3: money from this sale comes back in scholastic book dollars not cash.
2. Talent Show: Christen mentioned that Webb School was booked for the venue Friday 2/24
3. Parents Night Out on Friday 3/17: BYOB & food, there will be a trivia host, raffles, prizes at the Pitkin Center from 6-9pm. Only EW staff and parents \$20/person
4. Hip Hop dance program from the Creative Arts Council is coming back to the school beginning of April. 4/4 at night from 5-6:30 with Red Supreme in our gym.