

Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes
Monday September 11, 2023

Attendees:

Liz Andersen	Amy Burlingame	Mae Credo	Cara Crespo
Lauren Damm	Amy Gallagher-Cuadras	Andrea Hernandez	Sally Keating
Brandy Kerns	Elizabeth Keyes	Emily Lata	Keri Lloyd
Colleen Mattatall	Julie Meehan	Kate Nadeau	Laura Neville
Jessica Peltier	Lauren Rhines	Elisa Root	Alyssa Sanzaro
Shana Smith	Christen Sousa	Anna Szczepanski	Neela Thakur
Aja Tsombanos	Anthony Uccello	Leslie Williams	

Welcome: Lauren Rhines

- Call to order 6:37pm
- Welcome to everyone and introduction of board members
- Introduction of those in attendance

Shout Outs

- Kindergarten Summer Playgroups and Lunch Helpers: Had about 30 families join the playgroups throughout the summer!
- Teacher/Staff luncheon
- Beautification projects over the summer

Secretary Report: Jessica Peltier

- Thank you notes
- Sign in passed around
- Briefly discussed how everyone should look through minutes from the June meeting, as they will be approved at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Anthony Uccello

- Current balance ending June 30th \$15,589.98
- Discussed how PTO raises money through the various fundraisers throughout the year: School pictures, book fair, soccer game, apparel sale, membership drive.
- Discussed process of submitting forms for reimbursement
- Committee-Chair packet was emailed out

Principal Report: Neela Thakur

- Thank you to PTO for all they have done in the school and for the staff
- SEL focus: will improve school culture through restorative practices, helps students feel more connected, safe and welcomed at school. This will improve academics, attendance, & behaviors
- New math program Illustrative Math
- Almost fully staffed only down 1 para
- New music teacher Colleen Mello will start 10/2

- Evacuation drill this coming Thursday at 9:30am, plus fire drills and lockdown practices will take place within the first few days of school

Teacher Report: Elisa Root

- Thank you to PTO for the “Welcome back” lunch!
- Everyone loves the beautiful painting done around the school
- Community building circles will continue this year, a chance for teachers to check in and see how students are doing
- Read for the Record Book: With Lots of Love by Jenny Torres Sanchez

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Athletics: Anthony
 - Soccer Game on October 13 at 7pm
 - \$19.36 and \$5/ticket goes to PTO
 - Parking is \$10 and cashless
 - Flyers will be sent out
 - Wolfpack game in February
 - UCONN Women’s Basketball game
 - Possibly Yard Goats in late spring

- Book Fair: Amy B. & Colleen
 - Students will come down with their class to look through books to create wish lists
 - Students will be able to purchase books throughout the day during fair
 - Book fair will be open during Open House
 - Volunteer sign up was passed around
 - Tax is charged now

- Cheer: Kate
 - For the first month lots of families donated for Thankful Thursday through Venmo
 - Need more money to help support the upcoming months

- Community Outreach: Leslie
 - During Open House: please bring in bags and boxes of rice and instant mashed potatoes to help support the Wethersfield Food Bank

- Cultural Night: Ms. Root
 - Hoping to host this event in March 2023
 - Great time to celebrate our community where students and families share their culture
 - If interested please contact Ms. Root, there will be a meeting in January to help plan. eroot@wethersfield.me

- Dinner on the Lawn: Lauren
 - Canceled for this year due to weather

- Family Fun Night/Parents Night Out: Lauren
 - Looking to add free family fun events
 - Creating spaces for families who may not have the means to go to other events
 - Bingo/Dinner on the Lawn
 - Looking for an event in February/March

- Kindness Fundraiser: Amy
 - Raise Craze
 - Kindness Week start date October 16th.
 - Parents can sign up online with dashboard and share the link with family and friends
 - Take pictures and videos to share with school

- Membership Drive: Lauren
 - Every year anyone who would like to vote at the PTO meetings must register as a member of the PTO. You may give a donation or not, that is up to the person.
 - So far we have \$715 in contributions and about 20 members
 - If you know of a company that will do a corporate match for the donation, those are always welcome as well!
 - Drawing for prizes ends 10/6

- Restaurant Nights Out: Lauren
 - January 8th: Puerto Vallarta for 6th grade
 - March 26th: Puerto Vallarta for PTO
 - If you have any suggestions, please let the PTO know!

- Room Parent: Lauren
 - Room parents are the liaison to help let the parents know of opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and organize the teacher gifts
 - Only a few teachers need a room parent or one more
 - Could specials teachers have a room parent assigned to them as well?

- School Pictures: Shana
 - Dates are September 26 & 27
 - Every child will get a class photo because they are free for all
 - Every child is photographed even if you do not purchase photos
 - A QR code will be going home with each child the day of pictures. You can sign up to be notified when pictures are ready for viewing/purchasing.(Usually takes about 2 weeks)
 - If child misses picture day, there will be retakes on 11/3, but child will not be in class photo
 - Please let your child's teacher know that they will be retaking their photos when the time comes
 - Kindergarten goes first and the others are scheduled so that they are before lunch

- Sixth Grade Committee
 - Lyman Pie Fundraiser is coming up
 - Met as a committee with the 6th grade teachers
 - Looking at class shirts
 - Kissing ball and wreath fundraiser late fall

- Spirit Wear: Andrea
 - Using a local vendor and Andrea for tie dye shirts
 - Hoping to have fundraiser up and running 10/1-10/31
 - Please use online purchasing as much as possible

- Thinking about doing another Spirit Wear fundraiser in the spring
- By using local vendors, more money will be given to the PTO

- Sponsorship: Lauren
 - Businesses donate money and will be featured on the PTO website, FB page, and newsletters
 - So far \$150 were raised. Hoping to receive \$1,000
 - No deadline for sponsorship drive

- WSPC/SEPTO/BoE
 - SEPTO: connect families from early elementary through high school who have students with special needs. Any questions please see Amy Burlingame
 - BoE Meeting: 1st Thursday of every month
 - Facilities & Maintenance Meeting Thursday 9/24
 - Collier's assessment through Facilities and Maintenance
 - HVAC grants and improvements
 - Maintenance is not taking care of by BoE, it is Town Physical Services
 - All school breakfasts and lunches are free again this year

NEW BUSINESS

- Scarecrows on Main: If anyone would like to help out, Anna can't do it this year
- For next month, looking to vote to make Teacher Appreciation Week its own expense line item, with a budget of \$250.
- Walk/Bike/Roll to School Day October 4th:

VOTES

1. Beautification funds: Shana motioned to approve, Amy B. seconded, all were in favor
2. Jump Start Read for the Record \$100: Amy G-C motioned to approve, Ms. Root seconded, all were in favor
3. June minutes passed: Shana motioned to approve the June PTO minutes, Andrea seconded the vote. All were in favor of passing.