



<h2 style="margin: 0;">Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Monday, June 2, 2025 6:00 p.m.</p>

Attendees:

Sarrah Hughes	Katherine Patnaude	Andrea Hernandez
Elisa Root	Neela Thakur	Katrina Ross
Lauren Rhines	Nicole Wante	

Welcome: Sarrah Hughes

- Call to order 6:03 pm
- Welcome to everyone and introduction of board members
- Introduction of those in attendance

Treasurer Report: Katherine Patnaude

- Current balance reviewed.

Principal Report: Neela Thakur

- Thank Lauren and Jess and everyone who participated in Strawberry Fest – great turnout and great time
- Spring Concert for grades 4,5,6 – music was amazing
- Field day – Mrs. Dalke’s last field day, she’ll be retiring at the end of February next school year
- Art show – put together by Mrs. Richards – beautiful show
- Turn out for all events was wonderful
- Last day of school Monday June 16th – half day
- School district budget – didn’t get security officer or social worker they wanted. Going to be getting 1 additional tutor. Will do best they can with resources we have.
- Andrea Hernandez mentioned Erica Richard wanted to thank PTO and all the parents who helped with the art show

Teacher Report: Elisa Root

- Spirit week coming up next week – run by student council
 - 6/9 movie Monday
 - 6/10 table games Tuesday
 - 6/11 Walt Disney Wednesday – watch Disney film and wear Disney clothes
 - 6/12 athletic Thursday – do an activity with your grade outside
 - 6/13 EW annual kickball game – teachers vs kids
- Thanked everyone for an amazing year

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Cheer, Bookfair, Arts: Sarrah Hughes

- Would like to get reminders out about cheer and bookfair committees now and over the summer
- Cheer - Received note from Karla Pelarinos who is cheer committee chair – she’s looking to revamp committee and get new interest in it.

- Challenging because no volunteers this year. Need help to continue the committee
- Most popular - Thank you Thursdays, end of summer kickoff
- Cheer takes on teacher appreciation week every year. Would appreciate more support next year in helping to put this on
- Suggested a meet & greet over the summer like at Mikey's Place – talk about committees – things that interest you or children
- Ms. Thakur suggested the meet & greet on 8/26 before school starts – like a table or booth set up. Lauren Rhines has notes from when she was president. Can have list to sign up when they come.
- Ms. Root suggested at open house. Also suggested a thank you for room parents and volunteers for the year – chat with them – what would they like to see.
- Nicole Wante suggested asking room parents to reach out to the parents in their rooms
- Ms. Root suggested reminding them to sign up with a friend
- Shana Smith emailed about arts – Creative Arts Council – suggested hip hop for next year
- Booked the day for Savers Fundraiser – 9/20 – parking lot is reserved. Will advertise this in advance. Can have days to collect ahead of time and will have final day to collect on 9/20. Everything is done by the weight. Sarrah will get details.
- Next year's PTO meetings are booked
- Purse bingo – looking into Solomon Welles house

6th Grade Committee: Lauren Rhines

- Wrapping up an awesome year
- Had 2 field trips last week – Adventure course at Storrs and Pine Acres Day on Thursday and Friday
- Tabatha Zimmerman and Shana Smith will be chairs next year. Lauren booked step up for them for next year
- 6th grade spending a ton of money between now and 6/11 Step Up
- Amy and John Cuadras are finalizing yearbook today and will send proof to pay - \$2400 expected
- Should have about \$600 left after all expenses and PTO money. Then will reimburse Lauren for some. Should be able to leave \$150 for next year. And \$900 pot of money for buses for ropes course – invoice won't come in until the summer.

Strawberry Fest: Lauren Rhines

- Brought in more money this year than last year. But less than in the past. Sounded like people wanted more like dinner on the lawn, and less like a fest. Didn't want to spend money like on raffles.
- Not as many people at dunk tank
- Craft table was busy and the tattoos

Buddy Bench: Lauren Rhines

- Have to go through parks & rec. Parks & Rec met with Town's preferred vendor on Friday and he has not responded to them about the bench.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Discussion

- Sarrah's dad can potentially get some donations from Red Thread or Staples. What could the school use? Ms. Thakur and Ms. Root suggested - Could use bookshelves, teacher chairs, teacher desks. They will brainstorm ideas.

- Katrina Ross is on the board of the Town's soccer club – they are looking for a new practice field. They are willing to donate goals and anything needed if they could use it for practices on weeknights and potentially games. Ms. Thakur will get her in contact with Jessica Casey who is in charge of this.
- Katrina Ross - mentioned path behind the school she saw a car come through there to get to the traffic light. Suggested we ask the Town to install a bollard so cars can't go through. Will reach out to school security officer for next steps.

ITEMS TO VOTE ON

1. May 2025 minutes
 - Lauren Rhines motioned to approve
 - Elisa Root seconded
 - All in favor, minutes approved
2. PTO Board –
 - a. Sarrah Hughes, 2nd year President
 - b. Katherine Patnaude, 1st year President
 - c. Katrina Ross, Treasurer
 - d. Nicole Wante, Secretary
 - Lauren Rhines motioned to approve
 - Andrea Hernandez seconded
 - All in favor, minutes approved
3. PTO Bank account signers for 25-26 school year – Sarrah Hughes, 2nd year President; Katherine Patnaude, 1st year President; Katrina Ross, Treasurer
 - Lauren Rhines motioned to approve
 - Elisa Root seconded
 - All in favor, minutes approved
4. Budget for 25-26 school year
 - Lauren Rhines motioned to approve
 - Andrea Hernandez seconded
 - All in favor, minutes approved

Meeting called to close at 7:13pm