



Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20th, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Sarrah Hughes	Katherine Patnaude	Andrea Hernandez
Elisa Root	Neela Thakur	Katrina Ross
Lauren Rhines	Nicole Wante	Emily Lata
Shana Smith	Amie Lugo	Tabitha Zimmerman

Welcome: Sarrah Hughes

- Call to order at 6:32pm
- Welcome to everyone and introductions of those in attendance

Treasurer Report: Katrina Ross

- Current balance reviewed up to today
- Add – reimburse \$910 for t-shirts today
- In the negative on a few line items but some are things that are paid ahead and upcoming fundraisers will help
- At about limit for teacher wish list items
- Possibly look into using a different bank next year

Principal Report: Neela Thakur

- Grade 4 – There is a new bike program this year to address bike safety and learn to ride a bike
- Parent conferences are this week with half day schedule
- Thank you to all that helped with picture day and snacks in the staff lounge
- Mrs. Woods (5th Grade teacher) and Neela will be hosting community conversations – a follow up to Anxious Generation – One session in AM and one in PM
 - Scheduled for Monday Dec 1st 6:30-7:30pm at EW and Dec 2nd 9-10am
- 3 staff members have resigned:
 - Lunch aide – last day was Friday, but is now working in the kitchen
 - 4th grade teacher – Mrs. Nunn – They are in final stages of interviewing process
 - Librarian

Teacher Report: Ms. Root

- We have a long-term sub for music until Dec. 1st
- Ms. Carmen – 6th grade teacher will be stepping in to take over Circle of Friends - email will come out later this week. This will be for grades 2-6 this year.
- Thank you for anyone that attended Coffee Hour for Hispanic Heritage. Looking to bring it back again for next year.
- Pajama drive flyer will be going out – Run by the student council. They are collecting brand new pajamas. Scholastic will be donating a new book for every pajama donated up to 100,000 books – age newborn through adult small
- Spirit Day – Unity Day – wear orange
 - Another spirit day on Thurs Nov 6th – decades day

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Cheer Committee – There are 4 people on the committee. They recently had their first thankful Thursday and will be doing that once a month. For the next one, aiming for the week before thanksgiving. Always looking for suggestions ☺
- Tiger Trot/Color Run – Parents were really engaged in the activity and throwing paint at kids. Overall successful event and hoping to be able to do it again in the spring.
- Purse BINGO
 - Friday, November 14th 7-9pm in the EW café
 - Some people are signing up and not paying – will be reaching out
 - We only have a certain number of BINGO cards
 - You are allowed to bring a friend with you
 - \$30 to buy 5 rounds of BINGO with 2 boards, but you can purchase more
 - There will also be 3 raffles held. You will get a raffle ticket with your purchase
 - Bring your own food/snacks
- Trunk or Treat
 - 20-30 cars have signed up to decorate their cars
 - You don't have to sign up for a trunk to come trick or treating
 - Decorate your trunk during first 30 minutes
 - We don't want kids walking around to start trick or treating until 6pm for safety
 - Will clarify the timing of everything this week through Parent Square and Facebook page
- Savers Fundraiser
 - Rented a 10 ft UHaul and packed it to the brim, but we did not make nearly as much as expected – roughly \$300
- Internet Safety –
 - For Parents: Scott Driscoll – talking with WECC and they will cover the cost for the presentation. It will be held in the community center on Feb 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm at Pitkin Community Center ballroom
 - They will also provide childcare for the event
 - We are looking to work on a student presentation too for 5th and 6th graders
 - Cost is based on how many schools in town join in
 - Will request info on possible presentations for younger kids as well
- Creative Arts
 - Want to increase \$5.50 to \$6 a student (395 students) – maybe?
 - A fall show coming up – a fast painter – Nov 20th
 - Looking at finding a performance for the spring still
 - The organization is working to switch to a non-profit organization
 - All PTO's across schools need to agree on the cost to move forward
- Anthony Uccello Update from October WSPC meeting
 - Talked about school safety – Director of Security discussed after hours e-bike concerns. Potential use of retired officers and safe school grants were mentioned as part of future safety considerations.
 - Superintendent (Jeffrey Wihbey) spoke about importance of going outside during PE, lesson planning consistency for substitute. Teachers, and redistricting timelines linked to upcoming school construction phases.
 - New assistant superintendent, Jennifer Miller will start December 1st
 - After school karate program fundraiser was shared on Parent Square and flyers sent home. Dates: Tuesday Nov 11th, 18th, 25th, and Dec 2nd
 - Hartford Wolfpack event planned for April 10th – students from band and orchestra will perform

NEW BUSINESS

Open Discussion:

- They put a boulder in the middle of the path behind the school
 - They are planning on moving it when they need to plow it
 - They made a boulder out of a pebble size problem ;)
 - Follow up from Lauren
- Spirit wear: Happy Hydrangea
 - Working on a flyer
 - Open merch store later this week until Nov 7th
- 6th grade committee
 - Booked the ropes course
 - They have a date for step up
 - They bought a class gift
 - Ordered t-shirts
 - They have done a social and working on more
 - Lyman Pie fundraiser is finishing up
- Puerta Vallarta fundraiser is booked for February
- Casadoro Fundraiser – working on scheduling this but having a hard time getting a hold of anyone there. Lauren is going to reach out.
- Buddy Bench – no word yet on progress
- Thanksgiving drive/Food drive – could this possibly be a student council task?
- Emerson – Williams won the award for the most participation at the 5k with 7 students
- School Pictures
 - The last day to get the pictures sent to the school is next week
 - Retake day is Nov. 10th

ITEMS TO VOTE ON

1. September Meeting minutes
 - a. Motioned to approve
 - b. Seconded
 - c. All in favor, minutes approved
2. Fun Run added to the budget – used money from Misc. on the budget line
 - a. Add line item on budget for Tiger Trot - \$500 (\$250 for fall and \$250 for spring)
 - b. Motioned to approve
 - c. Seconded
 - d. All in favor, approved

Meeting called to close at 7:41pm