



## Emerson Williams PTO Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
6:30 p.m.

**Attendees:**

Sarrah Hughes	Nicole Wante	Andrea Hernandez
Neela Thakur	Amie Lugo	Katrina Ross
Lauren Rhines	Tabitha Zimmerman	Emily Lata
Anthony Uccello		

**Welcome:** Sarrah Hughes

- Call to order at 6:34
- Welcome to everyone and introductions of those in attendance

**Treasurer Report:** Katrina Ross

- Current balance reviewed up to today
- Currently running a surplus
- Butter Braid was very successful
- Deficit for Strawberry Fest and Parent's Night Out currently

**Principal Report:** Neela Thakur

- Art teacher is out on medical leave of absence – hoping to return on April 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Currently a sub is in the classroom – certified teacher but not an art teacher
  - When trimester 2 report cards come out there will be no grades for Art since she is out
- On Feb 19<sup>th</sup> a new P.E. teacher started – Corey Hunt. He teaches every grade except for grade 2
  - Before Ms. Dalke left they had 7 overlap days
- There have been 5 snow days so far which puts the last day of school currently at June 24<sup>th</sup> – with no school on June 19<sup>th</sup>
- School Budget – The superintendent wants to add an additional certified teacher for all 5 elementary schools – specifically a reading teacher
- Two new administrator positions were posted yesterday:
  - K-8 literacy and humanity curriculum supervisor
  - K-8 STEM supervisor
- PTO bought See Marcus Grow books in English and Spanish

**Teacher Report:** Absent

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- Butter Braid
  - Pick-up on 3/24 from 5:15-7:15pm at 151 Crest Street
- Book Fair – Is going to be in May in the evenings only due to not having enough volunteers who can commit to school hours– Still looking for parent volunteers. There are currently some who have expressed interest in night hour availability
- Purse BINGO – Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>

- Café is booked for that night already
  - Going to add trivia or alternative games to add to the event
- Spring Pictures are Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Sibling photos are available
  - Flyer will be going out for you to sign up
- Dance – DJ booked – April 24<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade will do concessions
  - VIP/Hollywood theme
- Strawberry Fest – Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Dunk tank, food, nature center animals
- Anthony Uccello Update
  - After School Karate – booked for 4 sessions
    - If you miss a class, you are able to make it up at the studio
    - Flyer has already been created
  - Band and Orchestra will play at the Wolfpack (4 songs) – April 10<sup>th</sup>
    - 75 ticket minimum
  - Yard Goats – looking to do a group ticket purchase
    - Potentially Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> w/fireworks – 25 ticket minimum
  - Harlem Wizards
    - Proceeds from ticket sales can go to each elementary school if we do that fundraiser again next year
  - WSPC Update
    - Budget for next year: 4.48% increase from previous year
    - Primary initiative- early literacy
    - CLASS program – will not be occurring this year
    - Schedule a vote in April for PTO Volunteer of the Year
    - Looking ahead: September 18<sup>th</sup> – Movie on the Cove
    - Interest in doing Musical Theater outing on – This would include a sensory friendly performance – Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford
      - Frog and Toad
      - 10 ticket deposit
- Parents Night Out – April 10<sup>th</sup> – Pitkin Community Center
  - 6:30-9pm
  - Decorate your table contest – prize for best decorated
  - Tables of 8
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee
  - Most of the dues are in
- Talent Show
  - Sarrah, Nicole, and Emily will look into finding a date to hold this

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Sending money to Safe Grad - \$200
- Scholarships: Not willing to donate to Dollars for Scholars because it does not allow students from Open Choice to apply and does not guarantee that it goes to an EW student. Instead, will increase safe grad donation instead.
- Creative Arts Council
  - This program benefits all elementary schools. However, we may consider to have one elementary school house the funds in the PTO bank account and then gets paid out from only one place.

- No Mames
  - The weather was not great for the scheduled date
  - Looking for another date

**ITEMS TO VOTE ON**

1. Lauren motioned to increase line item WHS Safe graduation from \$75 to \$200 for safe grad
  - a. Neela seconded
  - b. All in favor, approved
2. January and February Meeting minutes
  - a. Motioned to approve by Katrina
  - b. Seconded by Sarrah
  - c. All in favor, minutes approved

Meeting called to close at 7:37