

# Emerson Elementary PTO Minutes - May 14, 2013

## Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00-8:00 p.m.)

### 1) Welcome (6:00 - 6:25)

- a) Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
- b) Welcome to Wendy Ellis, new school counselor – Wendy will be at Emerson on Thursdays and Fridays (Mondays and Tuesdays at Glendale and Wednesdays at the District Office) – position is funded through a grant that will last through the next two academic years – will work with the PBS team – expertise in understanding how trauma affects kids and learning - 4K/5K Support Group feedback – new kindergarten parents will fill out a questionnaire to better understand how school can provide social/emotional support and third graders will fill out their own report – in the process of developing a 4K/5K Parent Support group
- c) Staff grant requests (3)
  - Approved grant request from Kitty Erdman for last 4 remaining playground exercise station signs to be purchased for \$315 - 6 signs have already purchased through a DPI moving and munching grant
  - Approved \$25 gift “cards” to be given to 40 teachers for end of year supplies
  - Tabled grant request from Kitty Erdman – Ipod and docking station \$936.87 total – for upstairs gym – can be used for SHARE, graduation, etc. – will research the possibility of some economical alternatives
  - Tabled grant request for \$400 from Ms. Schramm for a grade 2/3 visiting artist in residence– artist would work 20 hours at \$17/hour – Melanie will follow up to learn more about the artist and what technique they will be teaching the kids

### 2) Elections for Officers for 2013/2014 (6:25 – 6:55)

There was an election for next year's officers – next year's officers will be:

- a) Chair – Melanie Smith (the Vice Chair from the current year, automatically becomes the Chair for the following year, per the PTO by-laws)
- b) Vice Chair - Amy Kasper
- c) Treasurer – Deanna Schuppel
- d) Secretary – Emily Sanford
- e) New officers will have a planning meeting in June

### 3) Officer and Principal Reports (6:55 - 7:15)

- a) Treasurer (Patty Richardson): report for May 2013 – balance \$20,027.52
- b) Principal (Karen Kepler)
  - Emerson was awarded a Madison Trust for Historical Preservation Award for the new elevator addition
  - Emerson photos will be hung in the atrium highlighting the school and its students – Thanks to Mark Thom from Great Big Pictures for the printing services!
  - An anonymous donor donated an enlarged version of the Emerson bumper sticker to be hung in the atrium
  - Mrs. Kepler will be interviewed next Tuesday by AP about the elevator addition
  - 100 students participated in Celebrate Smiles – 40 received extensive dental care at the school
  - A \$100 People Power of Planet Award was given to Ms. Gallagher's interest club for its focus on how to save energy
  - Opera for the Young will be coming to Emerson on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> to work with 4K-5 grades work with students and give performance
  - Feedback on potential campus improvements that were discussed at Leadership were: a dedicated spot for wall ball, soccer nets, fix the mistake on the US map, signs to let people know what is okay to eat from the garden

- Mr. DH, Gwen Pierce, and Deb Skubal will be retiring at the end of the year – PTO approved the purchase of gift cards for them

**4) Vista Update (Kristin Armstrong) 7:15-7:25**

- Feedback from kids on potential campus improvements: climbing wall, swings, soccer goal
- Multicultural Family Night is coming up on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – it will include a free dinner and performances from two bands - Sonmundanca representing Southern Mexico and Tani Diakite representing Mali, West Africa
- Tuesday Night Lights – action team working on the planning for next year – next meeting will be June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Emerson library – hope to have something going on at the school every Tuesday night – open school house model

**5) Calendar for 2013-2014 School year (7:25-7:35)**

- Move beautification day up to the last weekend in April
- Keep spellcheck same – worked better this year having it not so close to the REAP WI Homegrown Fundraiser
- Eaglefest date to be determine – explore other locations

**6) Class Placement – Mrs. Kepler**

- School going to straight grades up to third grade – too difficult to split grades in light of current curriculum – can't go above 18 students in grades K-3 (Sage funding requirement) – Can have up to 28 students in 4/5
- Enrollment is currently at 405 without counting 4K
- Mrs. Kepler moves/approves final class placement (sometimes using confidential information)
- Things that are considered when determining class placement:
  - i) Academic peers
  - ii) Social peers
  - iii) Academic/Behavior Time
  - iv) Parent input – form is sent home with 3Q report cards – don't allow student/teacher shopping
- Clusters of certain students (TAG, IEP, etc.)
- Thing can change in light of number movement throughout the summer
- Goal of building staff/child/parent capacity – all classrooms should be able to teach to all students
- Build community/Sustain – e.g., responsive classroom (morning meeting – model and teach behaviors that we want to see) and 2<sup>nd</sup> step (how to deal with conflict)

**7) Committee Reports and Group Discussion (Leadership and Plan for Next Year) (7:35 – 7:55)**

- a) Fundraising – Square 1 did well – raised about \$1200
- b) Events
  - Science Night (350 attendees - 100 more attendees than last year!) – Thank you Anne Gassere and Cathy Perry!
  - Dance went well – Thank you Lara Kain, Molly Strigel, Kristy Sly, and Tami Kubiz for organizing
  - Beautification Day – May 18<sup>th</sup> – Shaili Pfeiffer and Keith Pollock will take lead for next year
  - School Picnic – June 11<sup>th</sup> – dedication for elevator – flyer going home by the end of the week to help with picnic – looking for ideas on possible entertainment –
  - August 28<sup>th</sup> – New Family Night – looking for a volunteer to lead
- c) Shed – exploring shed to store playground equipment
- d) Publicity -
- e) Staff Appreciation – Lori DeThorne will take lead next year – looking for an assistant
- f) Emerson gear – Jessica Cheney has offered to take the lead next year

8) New Business (7:55-8:00)

9) Adjournment

**Thank you all for making this such a great year!**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 10 because June 11 is the School Picnic!**

Questions or comments? Please call or write Amy Maurer (513-1397, [asmaurer@gmail.com](mailto:asmaurer@gmail.com)) or Melanie Smith ( [brendonandmelanie@tds.net](mailto:brendonandmelanie@tds.net))