

Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

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

1) Welcome

- Welcome to new participants
- Introductions – officers, round the table, name, relationship to Emerson, etc.
- Review of typical meeting agenda; sign-in sheet

2) Presentation from Rachel Schramm – Art Teacher

- Ms. Schramm provided an update on her efforts to get an outdoor stage built on Emerson's playground. (Ms. Schramm was awarded a \$1000 grant and another grant from the PTO last year, which would have covered the initial bid from Marlin Lumber for \$1642.09.)
- Marling Lumber reported that material costs went up and that the project will now cost \$2228.36.
- Ms. Schramm will write another grant proposal to the PTO for the remaining funds. Others will also look into other possible funding options.

3) Officer and Principal Reports

- Treasurer (Patty Richardson)
 - not much activity since last school year;
 - will provide a more detailed report along with the proposed '12-'13 budget at the next PTO meeting.
- Principal (Karen Kepler)
 - Enrollment continues to grow – was at 267 students, 8 years ago. Currently at 440 students, including 4k. Will be adding a 5th kindergarten room.
 - Kindergarten connection went well. 70 parents attended.
 - Outdoor lights were added to the playground.
 - Music con Brio received two grants that will allow for three community concerts. The first one will be on Sept. 20 at 6 pm with Wisconsin Public Radio's Artist in Residence - Kat Trio. This concert is free and open to the public.
 - JoAnna Griffin will continue as Emerson's representative at District TAG meetings. This group will meet 3 to 5 more times this year. Their minutes will now be available on-line.
 - Emerson was awarded a \$15,000 grant to increase family involvement after school hours in the library (e.g., performances, authors, etc.). Thank you to Kristin Armstrong – VISTA Coordinator for all her work on this grant!!
 - Through a VH1 grant award, a keyboard lab is being installed. In October, we will be able to visit it.
 - Numerous community donations allowed for the creation of homework boxes and other school supplies to be made available to Emerson families.
 - Elevator construction should be complete by the end of October/early November.

- Emerson was awarded a DPI fresh fruit/veggie snack grant again. Snacks will be made available to kids on T, W, and Th.

4) PTO Structure and Volunteer Positions (6:55 – 7:25)

- Events Committee – Deb Lease, Chair – provided overview of PTO events and the need for volunteers to help make these events a success.
 - Announced that the first Events Committee meeting will be on **Tues., Sept. 25th at 6:00 p.m.**
 - First big event is **Tues., Oct. 2nd** – Open House/Bake Sale
- Facebook/E-mail Blast
 - Kristin Armstrong is currently doing Facebook/PTO e-mail blasts - looking for a parent to take over
- Fall Beautification Day will be on **Sat., Oct 15th** from 9-12 pm – led by Mark Geistlinger – clip and return volunteer sheet will go out soon for it.
- Staff Appreciation – led by Kristin Meyer – Currently mostly provide food to staff on certain days, but welcome other ideas on how to show Emerson staff our appreciation.
- Popcorn – ingredients were reviewed for allergy concerns – popcorn will start end of this week – need volunteers to help with this.
- Coffee sales will start this week – led by Suzy Grinrod. Patty Richardson will assist by making copies of order sheets each month.
- Student Directory was discussed. Sheila Lenius has offered to head it up. A form will need to be developed to ensure families can opt out of the directory and that students and families understand appropriate use of the contact information.

5) Budget and Fundraising

- Postponed until next month

6) New Business

- GROW Gardens Pilot was discussed, which would encourage the use of existing gardens in class room curriculum. Deb Lease will review.
- Wearable used shoe recycling program was discussed – Emerson would receive money per pound of shoes donated. Shoes will go to needy feet around the world. The program organizers will send us all necessary boxes/shipping, etc. Typical school has received between \$500-600.

7) Adjournment – Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 6:00-8:00 pm

Questions or comments? Please call or write Amy Maurer (513-1397, asmaurer@gmail.com), or Melanie Smith (301-0379, brendonandmelanie@tds.net)