

Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2012

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

1) Welcome (6:00-6:05)

- a) Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
- b) Review of agenda; handouts
- c) Questions or concerns?
There was discussion regarding the needs to create a master PTO e-mail address spreadsheet that would be available on Google docs or some other on-line drop box. Greta Casey offered to look into creating such a resource.

2) Officer and Principal Reports (6:05-6:20)

- a) Secretary (Amy Kasper): minutes from October, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- b) Treasurer (Patty Richardson) – Current balance: \$16,242.27; reviewed and approved budget. – See attached.
- c) Principal (Karen Kepler)
 - Planning on Feb. 8 for Read Your Heart Out – African American Parent Involvement in Schools – Day of literacy – families come in to read – informational session coming up – about 8 Madison schools will be involved.
 - Elevator - outer shell done – waiting for the actual elevator to be delivered in order to finish project.
 - Received a grant to hire an additional counselor– interviews will be next week – counselor will also provide prof development for staff around stress and trauma.
 - Playtime Productions tomorrow at 6:30 pm.
 - Looking for feedback from parents and students on SHARE program (i.e., the school assembly once a month) – purpose of assembly is community building, practice being an assembly, an opportunity to learn audience behavior – not always engaging, so student behavior goes down – welcome parent involvement. Also interested in getting feedback on interest clubs.

3) District Report Card (6:20-6:35): Karen Kepler

- Reviewed purpose and components of the report cards.
- Discussed the four priority areas and what data is used.
- Helpful in showing areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.
- Will continue dialogue with DPI for how report could be improved.
- Report cards do not show the whole story of educating a student.
- For additional info, please see: <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/node/10309>

4) School Newsletter (6:35-6:50): Tracie Tudor and Kristin Armstrong

- Heard about plans to revamp school newsletter so it has more of the same look and feel of the new district newsletter – it will be shorter – likely 6 pages, plus photos – looking for feedback so that it is the most useful to parents – goal is for it to go out once a month – print and on-line version available (allow for more detail on-line, including links) – hope to have a student component (kid's' corner – word search, or maze, etc.).

5) Diversity Efforts / Vista update (6:50-7:05): Amy Kasper and Kristin Armstrong

- Continuing dialogue with various community resources on potential best practices
- Will continue to offer simultaneous translation at meetings

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6) Book Fair (7:05 – 7:15)

- a) Update, volunteer requirements: 11/14 set up the book fair
11/15 book fair in the upper gym, 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

7) Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (7:15 – 7:30)

- a) Fundraising (Wisconsin Homegrown Holiday, SpellCheck, Eaglefest, Market Day)
- b) Events (Fun Night) – Jan. 25 – looking for volunteers to help with some of the various stations and games – please contact Deb Lease (E-mail: dlease@gmail.com) if you can help.
- c) Publicity
- d) Staff Appreciation

8) Calendar – look ahead (7:30 – 7:35)

- a) November 27 – Great Emerson SpellCheck
- b) December 3 – Homegrown Holiday order pickup
- c) December 4 – PTO Events Committee meeting – 6 pm library
- d) December 11 – PTO Meeting
- e) December 18 – Emerson Variety Show

9) New Business (7:35-7:45)

10) Adjournment

Thanks for Coming!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, Meeting 6:00-8:00

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