

Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2012

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

1) Welcome (6:00-6:10)

- a) Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
- b) Comments, questions
- c) Review of agenda; handouts
- d) Bake Sale report – \$616 profit (last year was \$528); over 45 volunteers! Thank you to everyone who helped!

2) Staff Presentation – Jeff Doyle-Horney (Mr. DH) Keyboarding Lab (6:10 – 6:40)

- Thank you to Mr. DH for giving us a tour of the amazing new multi-station keyboard lab. We were able to try out the keyboards, learn more about the curriculum and ask questions about what the kids are learning.

3) Officer and Principal Reports (6:40-6:55)

- a) Treasurer's report for October, 2012 – Budget for this year is still being worked on. In the next few weeks, it will be sent out to be reviewed and approved.
- b) Volunteer needs (Amy Maurer)
 - Popcorn - We need volunteers to help Kristine with the popcorn – Thursday in the early evening and Friday mornings. Please contact Amy Maurer if you can help!
 - Beautification this Saturday – lots of things planned: paint playground shapes, paint remaining benches, fix paint picnic table, clean beds, mulch garden, etc. Rain date: 10/20/12
- c) Principal (Karen Kepler)
 - Emerson received 125 homework boxes and other school supplies from a variety of generous community members and organizations. Currently, working on drives for boots and snow pants with a number of community partners.
 - Meg Healy our new 4th grade teacher received a chair and numerous other supplies from Office Max to help welcome her to Emerson. Office Max also donated 50 bags of other supplies. Thank you, Office Max!
 - We are planning a ribbon cutting for the new keyboard lab on Nov. 12th from 4:30-6 pm. Just coordinating final details with Vh1.
 - The school board liaison for Emerson this year is James Howard (current president/past Emerson parent).
 - Looking for help on how to word a plaque to recognize Don Becker for his significant contribution to making the Emerson elevator a soon to be reality. The elevator should be completed by the end of November.
 - Celebrate Smiles will be back again this year in April to provide screening for teeth, fluoride, etc.
 - Emerson is a recipient of a Counselor Grant to help fund a school counselor position in our school to assist with mental health needs and social emotional supports.
 - The new DPI school “report cards” will be released on Oct. 22nd. We will review and discuss at the November PTO meeting.

4) PTO Diversity efforts – Amy Kasper (6:55 – 7:05)

- Met with Thoreau's former PTO President (Rosita Gonzalez) about their organization's efforts to do a better job engaging families and in particular, families of color. Last spring, Thoreau was nationally recognized for their efforts to make their meetings and PTO sponsored events more welcoming and inclusive.

- This coming Thursday, Kristin Armstrong (Vista) and Amy will meet with Shahanna Baldon the District's Chief Diversity Officer, and Kimiko Ott, the Director of Equity and Family Involvement to seek additional thoughts on best practices and ideas from their office. They will report back at the next meeting.

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

- a) Fundraising – Ginger Niva (Market Day, Wisconsin Homegrown Holiday, SpellCheck, Eaglefest)
 - Market Day order needs to be \$500 for the truck to come. The last order was short. Looking for additional volunteers to help with order assembly. Please contact Ginger (gpniva@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.
 - WI Homegrown Holiday Fundraiser – Order forms went out last Friday. Emerson's total profit last year was \$3771.05; the year before that it was \$3122.75. 72 families and staff participated last year; 63 families and staff the year before that. Orders are due Wed., Oct. 24. Please contact Amy Kasper (amykasper@gmail.com) if you can help with warehouse pick up day and order assembly, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 2.
 - Spell Check forms will go home on the Nov. 12. Thank you to Kathy Kemnitz for leading this up!
- b) Events (Fall Garden Day, others)
 - Book Fair is coming up on Nov. 15 – coincides with parent teacher conferences. Thank you to Jessica Thorsen for organizing!
 - Oct. 23 is the next events meeting. Please see Deb Lease (dlease@gmail.com) if you have questions.
 - PTO plans to buy a karaoke machine, in light of the cost of one versus the rental fee that Emerson has been paying each year.
- c) First Staff Appreciation is coming up on Nov. 15th. Thank you to Kristin Meyer for organizing!

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

- a) October 13 – Fall Gardening Day
- b) October 24 – Wisconsin Homegrown Holiday orders due
- c) November 12 – Great Emerson Spell Check forms sent home
- d) November 15 – Book Fair (during Parent Teacher conferences)
- e) November 27 – Great Emerson Spell Check

7) Staff Grants and Expense Proposals (7:35 – 7:45)

- Discussed whether to have two distinct cycle periods with a Dec.1 deadline for spring semester grants and a May 1 deadline for fall semester. Also discussed the timing of the Foundation for Madison Schools grants and whether this should be changed so that the deadline isn't right when the new school year is first getting started.

8) Adjournment

Thanks for Coming!

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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