

Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2013

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

2) Garden partnership - (6:05 – 6:20) – Keith Pollack

- Provided an overview of a program that allows at-risk high school students district wide to participate in a seed to table program housed at the Goodman Community Center. Currently, there are 13 students in the program; 8 of the 13 are from East.
- Part of the program focuses on community service – e.g., heavy labor projects, gardening, woodworking projects.
- Labor is free – just need to provide the materials – can also do programming/presentation to kids – have access to the greenhouse at East High.
- Student would be available to help with projects for the spring semester, and part of the summer.
- Potential ideas of collaboration - K-2 afterschool – garden club. Assist with beautification day. Front garden project. Benches. Little library - \$40.
- A motion was passed approving the installation of a little library near the school playground, contingent on a follow up discussion with Mrs. Kepler.

3) Girl Scout Book Drive - (6:15 – 6:45) – Sheila Lenius – 243-1193 (sheila64@chorus.net)

- The K-1 Emerson troop is working on a book drive; hoping to collect 1000 books to ship to Africa – Sierra Leone and raise \$500 for additional educational efforts.
- Would welcome gently used books pre-K-up to fourth grade. 150 books have been collected to date.
- A collection bin will be at Emerson to help facilitate donations.

4) Officer and Principal Reports (6:55-7:05)

- a) Treasurer (Patty Richardson): report for February, 2012

5) Vista Update (7:15-7:25) – Kristin Armstrong

- Hard copies of school newsletters will be distributed via backpack mail, but hope to eventually have the newsletter be electronic-only.
- Looking to create an action team to discuss how to sustain Tuesday Night Lights for next year –hoping to have continued kid-orientated events in the library with additional programming for adults in the cafeteria.
- Kristin's last day is July. Emerson has applied for a new vista -- hope to have a new one on board in the coming months to help with the transition.

6) Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (7:25 – 7:45)

- a) Fundraising – Eagle Fest (Thank you notes) – made about \$300 – would like to apply to DOA for a raffle license for next year - Square One order forms will be going home soon – can also order on-line.
- b) Events – Science Night – April 23 need volunteers to serve food -- event is from 5:00-7:30 pm – May 3rd School Dance; May 18th Beautification; June 11th year end picnic.
- c) Publicity
- d) Staff Appreciation – Lori DeThorne has volunteered to take this over for next year.

7) Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 - 8:00