



EASTFORD ELEMENTARY PTO AGENDA

MARCH 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Meeting ID: 937 6829 9983

Passcode: 675504

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM.

1. Attendees: [Mary DeGostin](#), [Brandy Montigny](#), Aliesha Lynch, Carole McCombe, Lauren Vasbinder, [Liz Scranton](#), Donna Lynch
2. Review January 9, 2024 proposed meeting minutes - Minutes approved with edits to Carole's name
3. Principal's Report
 - Conferences are scheduled for the 27th and 28th
 - March 28th is an early dismissal day.
 - There is no school on March 29th for Good Friday.
 - March newsletter a lot of events
 - Experience Eastford is on May 11th. Carole mentioned it may be a good idea to have PTO presence (either a booth or event). There is a form to request a table or space.
 - April Break is scheduled for 4/15-4/19.
 - We only had 2 snow days so far this year, so as of right now, the last day will be Friday, 6/14.
 - The budget hearing will be in May (date TBD).
4. Treasurer's Report
 - January 31st Statement
Balance = \$8,739.07
 - Deposit = \$140.50
 - Withdrawal = \$56.29 VistaPrint (Dinner Tickets)
 - February 29th Statement
Balance = \$8,363.22
 - Deposit = \$1,020.00 Dinner Ticket Sales
 - Withdrawals = \$1,395.85
 - \$110.00 Check to Food Pantry (Giving Tree)
 - \$961.40 Check for Prismatic Assembly
 - \$324.45 Debit Card Transactions for Spaghetti Dinner (Dollar General, Amazon, Walmart, BJ's)

5. Old Business

- Winter Wonderland Craft, Story, and Cookie Decorating
 - This event went very well. In the future, the librarians have stated that we will not need to cap attendance for events at the library. Another event is scheduled for April.
- Spaghetti Dinner
 - We sold 70 tickets and made a profit of \$700. The cooking/delivery/pickup system worked very well. We have plenty of leftover containers if we choose to do the event again. We have only received positive feedback on the event.
- Combustion & Liquid Nitrogen Assembly
 - Feedback from middle school teachers suggested that the person hosting the assembly could have been more organized and the older students were not as engaged as the younger students.
- Future Assemblies
 - We discussed possible assemblies for the future and costs associated with them. Carole suggested author talks/workshops, which can be done via Zoom, in lieu of an assembly.
 - Liz asked what PTO money is allocated for at other schools. For example, Woodstock doesn't have assemblies, but they sometimes bring in authors to speak.
 - Other ideas included having different presenters so presentations would be targeted to grade level. Funding field trips and playground equipment were brought up as other options.
- Engagement
 - Ideas to increase teacher participation: We discussed sending a document for teachers to sign up to attend the meetings/sign up for a month. Offering participation incentives was suggested as an idea to increase participation. Donna offered to send the Zoom link and talk up the meeting to other teachers.
 - Ideas to increase parent participation: Liz offered to help out as needed. Carole suggested that we ask the Student Council for assistance as well. Donna suggested asking people for specific requests.

6. New Business

- Spring Fundraiser
 - The fundraiser will run from March 15th-29th. There will be a catalog sent home with students.
- Parent Teacher Conference Dinner

- Dinner will be on Wednesday, 3/27 conference night. A google doc was sent out in the newsletter and posted on the town Facebook page. Nearly all spots are filled.
- Movie Night
 - Due to not having weekend access to the school, we discussed changing the movie night date to a Friday in May from 6-8PM. The PTO could provide snacks and beverages or hold a concession stand. It would be advertised as a family movie night.
- Family Engagement Activity
 - Mr. Kernan can sponsor two events with us. In order to secure grant financing, he needs possible activities by the end of June. We need to have it narrowed down to 2 events for the spring and 2 events for the summer.
 - Aliesha shared a list of possible options. We discussed the different possibilities. We came to the consensus that, if we are taking a bus, it should be somewhere most people wouldn't drive themselves/haven't been before. For example, students have had the opportunity to go to Mystic Aquarium and Southwick Zoo with the school, so those wouldn't be ideal. Possible options included sporting events, Dinosaur Park, Essex Train, Six Flags, Breezy Picnic Grounds, Gillette Castle, and the Ecotarium.
 - Aliesha will email Mr. Kernan with our top choices and get clarification on the budget.
- Mary let us know that she will be stepping down as Co-Chair at the end of the year. The position will need to be filled.

7. Next Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.