



Eastford Elementary PTO Agenda
September 10, 2024
6:00PM
Meeting ID:

1. Attendees: Brandy Montigny, Carole McCombe, Aliesha Lynch, , Lauren Vasbinder, Donna Lynch, Liz Scranton, Rachel Patenaude
2. Review May 14, 2024 meeting minutes - Approved
3. Principal's Report
 - a. Important Dates:
 - **School Pictures:** September 17th
 - **Bus Evacuation Drill:** September 17th
 - **Open House:** September 19th

Please note the following updates to our revised school calendar:

- **Early Dismissal Days:** October 11th and February 14th. While students will be released early on these days, staff will remain at school for professional development.
4. Treasurer's Report - Brandy to send notes
 5. Old Business
 - a. Field Day -
 - i. The event was a success, with all snacks and food being well received. The PTO may continue this initiative if we secure the necessary funding. With additional funds, we might be able to offer more options. Please note that Big Y does not accept card payments over the phone. Be sure to have your payment prepared in advance for this year.
 - b. 8th Grade Graduation -
 - i. The event went smoothly, thanks to our seasoned volunteer, Lauren Barlow, who handled the setup of decorations and food. For the upcoming year, we aim to specify how funds are allocated. Last year, we spent money on plants, helium kits, balloons, and other supplies. We are considering reaching out to Dollar General for a donation of balloons for this year's graduation. However, Liz mentioned that Dollar General typically funds literacy-related items, such as books, and may not support graduation supplies. Lauren's reimbursement is still pending at the office, and she will likely be unavailable to assist with the graduation setup this year. We have teachers who are familiar with setting up balloon arches and may be able to help. We don't yet have a graduation date, but we plan for PTO members to assist with the setup when the time comes.
 6. New Business
 - a. Sign Contest -
 - i. 9/9-9/20 This year's theme is "Where Does Reading Take You?" A flier has been sent to all students. We are aiming to align the author visits with this theme. We need to select the top three applicants, which will require about an hour of preparation after school on the 20th. Liz and Rachel have offered to assist with choosing the top three candidates. They will also prepare the poster board for students to judge from on 9/27. The

PTO will cover the cost of mounting the sign. Donna suggested that Dollar General's grants might be able to fund this since it is related to literacy. Aliesha will look into this possibility. We have already prepaid for this year and next year's expenses of the blank sign, not the mounting.

- b. Ice Cream Social - Open House on Sept 19th at 6 pm.
 - i. We discussed the options of novelty ice cream versus ice cream sundaes. It was noted that novelty ice creams would be easier to manage and would streamline the flow of people. The need for dairy-free options was also mentioned. A motion was made to serve novelty bars, and the motion passed with no objections. To avoid a "grab and go" situation, we should plan to start serving the ice cream around 6:15 or 6:30 instead of at the beginning.
- c. Cash Calendar -
 - i. We discussed how the cash calendar works. When you purchase a ticket, your name will be entered into a daily drawing, giving you three chances throughout October to win the cash amount specified for that day. We also talked about whether we need any specific paperwork. It was suggested that we contact the town hall to check if there's a required form. Additionally, a few members will reach out to other organizations that have hosted similar events in the past to gather information on any necessary paperwork.
- d. Spirit Wear -
 - i. This year we introduced two new options for older students, parents and residents who want to support the school fundraiser without directly referencing the school on their attire. We now offer two additional designs: one that says "Eastford Bulldogs" and simply stating "Eastford." The fundraiser will run until September 27th and spirit wear flyers will be available during the open house. Aliesha will draft an email to Carole on behalf of the PTO to remind everyone about the Ice Cream Social during the open house and to check out the volunteer sign- up sheet and spirit wear fundraiser.
- e. Mindful movement family engagement night -
 - i. We are excited to announce that our Mindful Movement family engagement event is happening in collaboration with the After-School program. Roots to Wellness will be joining us for a family event at 5:15 PM. We are currently looking for volunteers to help prepare healthy snacks from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, but so far, we haven't had any sign- ups. If we can't secure volunteers, we can offer snack- drop- off options- such as apples, bananas, and oranges. Additionally we can reach out to Candy, to see if students can stay after school to assist with making a healthy snack. This could be a great way for middle school students to earn community service hours.
- f. Can Drive -
 - i. This year, we're excited to host our 2nd annual can drive for the Eastford Pantry from October 7 to October 18. We've scheduled this to avoid overlapping with the library, Bowens Garage, and the Eastford Fire Department, who are also generously supporting the food pantry with their donations.
 - ii. We've contacted Candy Mead, and the student council will help us run the can drive again this year. We need a volunteer for drop-offs on

October 11 and October 18 at 2 PM. Liz has kindly agreed to handle pick-ups and drop-offs of all donated items every Friday. She will also reach out to the food pantry to identify any specific needs and will share that information with the PTO so we can create a flier for parents.

- g. Visit from author Renata Bowers
 - i. Donna has kindly organized an assembly for us on October 29th, featuring three separate 50-minute sessions for students. The current plan is for Renata to meet with Pre-K through 1st grade, grades 2-4, and grades 5-8. She will remain the primary contact for Renata and will work to streamline the day's schedule.
 - ii. Additionally, Donna has been in touch with local author Julie Kneeland, who can meet with the younger grades for \$75. She will keep us updated on the details as they become available.
 - iii. We also discussed options for assemblies that would engage older students in ways they might not typically experience. In the past, we've had multicultural events like African drummers and folk dancers. It was suggested that we could potentially reach out to local universities for planetarium guides.
- h. Discussed everyone's opinion on sending an email to the teachers to try and engage the teachers to sign up for one PTO meeting per year so we can gauge their needs.
 - i. Donna wants to try and recruit before we send out the email. Her goal is to get at least one person to attend each month with her.

Motion to adjourn at 6:58p