**Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

1. Welcome (6:45-6:50)
2. Welcome to participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
3. Staff Grant Application – Ms. Peddie (6:50-6:55)
   * + Request for $55. Ms Peddie would like to make a favorite books iMovie for her classroom and funds would cover the expenses for the cords needed for projector, and DVD’s to make copies for her students to expand school-home connection.
     + Grant was approved
4. Principal’s Report (6:55-7:00)
   * + Family Involvement money left- for science night?
     + TJ Mertzfrom MMSD school board was at Emerson- had discussion with Karen Kepler and said he will bring forward the playground project at city meeting.
     + $337 from Target Take Charge- these funds go towards homework boxes, departing bags, etc.
     + Fresh fruit and veggie snack- funding had been reduced to 3 days/week. Funds have been reinstated and we are back to 4 days/week through the end of the school year.
     + 400+ at the school dance!
     + District budget- Karen Kepler will be in conference call March 10 and will receive budget workbooks on March 11. Big reductions happening in the district. Will be reporting back in April about what this means for Emerson.
     + Summer Fair received positive feedback from families and vendors. Suggestion to sort vendors into full-day, part-day, and drop-in options next year.
5. Treasurer Report-Deanna Schuppel (7:00-7:05)
6. Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (7:05-7:25)
   1. Fundraising – Melanie Smith and Gabrielle Grimes

* Mallard’s Game Update – Heidi Habeger
  + Tuesday May 26- 6:35 game time. The Madison Mallards vs. Kalamazoo Growlers. They are giving us tickets for $8, we can turn around and sell for $10. Reserved 200 stadium seats, 50 backyard seats. Ceremonial first pitch. $10 ticket includes a Mallards hat. Emerson will also receive 3 video board mentions, advertisements for Emerson in the mallards publications and radio mentions. Need someone at the table to represent Emerson. Need a 30 second commercial for the video board- Amy Kasper. Tickets will be available to purchase through May 19.
* Raffle @ picnic?
  + Raffle license would be $25, but to purchase you need to fit into certain legal categories. Emerson does not qualify at this time. We have not “officially” incorporated with the state as a charitable org (also not a 501C3). To become a 501C3 there would be a $400 filing fee. There will be ongoing administrative burdens. Becoming a 501C3 would have multiple benefits to the Emerson PTO, such as grant applications, sustainability, etc.
  1. Events (Dance recap – March 6; Science Night – April 21; MCFN – May 5th) – Deb Lease and Joanna Griffin
     + Dance-
       - 400+ attendees
       - there was one request for transportation- discussed and explored options on how to make transportation available to families who need it in the future and how to make those arrangements. Possibly use money from the social justice fund from PTO budget? Requests go through the school social worker? Options for carpool sign up on forms? Ride sharing websites? Contact person for people with transportation issues?
     + Science Night
       - Need volunteers for dinner. Kiwanis want to be involved. Would be a good night to promote the Mallards game night.
  2. Staff Appreciation – (Parent Teacher Conferences – March 19) – Raechel Pundsack and Heidi Habeger
     + Using Willy St. Co-op money to buy food for the next staff appreciation event on Parent/Teacher Conference day on March 19.
  3. Playground Update/Urban Tree Alliance – instruments to be installed April 25th
     + Urban Tree Alliance will be working with classrooms to do planting in the spring.

1. New Business (7:25)
2. Adjournment – Thanks for coming!

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14 – Overview of School Improvement Plan (“SIP”)