**Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

1. Welcome (6:00-6:05)
2. Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
3. Treasurer’s Report (6:05 – 6:10)
	* Anna distributed the report to date.
		+ 1,200 – met goal for fun night
			1. Might have a couple of expenses left to reconcile – from photos.
		+ More Spell Check $ came in
			1. Still off by a few hundred from budget.
			2. Anna will check with Jenny again.
		+ Playtime productions
			1. Had about $30.00 come in from production.
		+ Bought a raffle license for the end of year picnic.
			1. Can be used for the Mallard’s game as well.
		+ Needed more popcorn and white bags.
		+ Checking acct = $19,311.74
		+ Savings = $25.00
		+ March meeting – Anna will bring the year to date budget and actuals.
			1. Might be able to make another contribution to the playground budget.
4. Principal’s Report - (6:10-6:30)
	* Love of Literacy will be this Friday
	* Breathe for Change
		+ In the second semester
			1. Now is moving into instructional practice.
			2. Had instructors here to do more work with the teachers.
			3. Two more staff training to be facilitators.
			4. Principal Kepler is considering going through the training as well by August.
		+ Second Step Emotional Learning
			1. Big problem solving month.
			2. Coordinating across the school so that classes are at the same pace.
		+ Family Fun Night
			1. About 360 students and families signed in for Fun Night
				1. Did not include volunteers
				2. Event went well; gets better and better
		+ New report card
			1. Principal Kepler would like this to be on the agenda for April at the latest
			2. Rollout by district for next year
			3. Will be four times per year
			4. More aligned with common core standards
			5. Staff will see in two weeks and then rollout to parents
		+ SAVE: Student Anti Victimization Curriculum
			1. Safe touch
			2. Posters have been updated
		+ Accepted for first year of adoption of new math program
			1. Has more homeschool connections to it
			2. More streamlined common core
			3. Student friendly
			4. Principal Kepler will have more information after next week
			5. May have representatives come in April or May to talk about it
5. Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (6:20-7:25)
	* Emerson Gear - JoAnna
		+ Order forms went out
		+ Starting to get orders coming in
		+ Will give until the 18th, a few days after posted deadline to get orders.
		+ Principal Kepler asked if a display could be set up for Love of Literacy event this Friday.
		+ It’s not much of a fundraiser for the PTO unless a lot of items are sold
	* Events – Heidi
		+ Well-attended event
		+ Had about 70 individual volunteers
			1. A great deal of coordination
			2. The Mad Rollin’ Dolls were very helpful
	* Dirt Room
		+ Cluttered; needs to be reorganized
			1. Heidi would like to get some plastic shelving
				1. Potentially rugs on the floor to keep the dust down
			2. Bins for each event
			3. Would like to use a PTO meeting to work on the room.
				1. Principal Kepler will add this task to the spring beautification day
	* Dance Night – Friday, March 4th
		+ Heidi will now start to focus on dance planning
			1. Fifth graders have helped decorate in the past
				1. Not organized by the teacher
				2. Would still need a grownup to supervise
				3. Promote set up as a kid friendly task
			2. Bake sale will be in the hallway
				1. Clip and return will go out for bakers
	* Science Night – Tuesday, April 19th
	* Othehlia Cassidy suggested a fundraiser of a food tour in the school neighborhood.
		+ Dexter’s, Crostini, Malt House, etc…
		+ Initial cost estimate of the tour would be in the $50.00 range per person
			1. Businesses would be donating their time and food
			2. PTO discussed the cost seemed high
				1. $25 - $30 might be more reasonable
				2. Would also do a kids’ rate
				3. Also discussed armband or key card for discounts at area restaurants
	* Staff appreciation – March 8th
		+ Breakfast or lunch/dinner?
		+ Rachel has the clip and return ready to go
			1. Ask her to revise for lunch/dinner plan instead
			2. People donate soup/salads
	* Playground Update
		+ Amy and Principal Kepler met with the district to discuss the two phases of the booster
		+ The district gave a verbal commitment to support part A of the booster
			1. Around $56K is the current cost for the booster, with just under $17,000 coming from our fundraising efforts
			2. Would likely be a summer install based on the process underway
	* New Business
		+ Discussion about desire to learn more about the new principal at Sherman Middle school
			1. Could invite new principal to speak at the PTO meeting or other outreach event
			2. Advertise with the 4th and 5th grade classes
			3. There is usually an event to visit Sherman in the spring
			4. Add discussion to the next PTO meeting
			5. Could combine with a TNL
				1. Kids do activity while parents meet with Sherman principal
		+ After school clubs
			1. JoAnna met with an O’Keeffe parent about after school clubs
				1. How do we start something at Emerson?

Might be facilitated by a UW program

Would need to be parent run

JoAnna will follow up and get more details

1. Adjournment – Thank you for coming!

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15th