**Emerson Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2015**

1. Welcome (6:00-6:10)
2. Welcome to new participants; introductions; sign-in sheet
3. How to Read Report Cards and an Overview of School Assessments - Principal Kepler and IRT, Lisa Stein (6:10-6:50)
   * Visit MMSD webpage for more information: https://accountability.madison.k12.wi.us/assessments
   * State and district assessments- include PALS, Smarter Balanced, MAP (Measure of Academic Progress)
   * MAP and Smarter Balanced are computer adapted tests. In classroom, each student has computer.
   * PALS- 4k-2nd grade. 2 times a year.
   * Fact test- used as a screener to assess math fact knowledge
   * <https://accountability.madison.k12.wi.us/information-families> Informative webpage to see when assessments are taking place and to learn more about the assessments. (Why they give it, what it measures, etc.)
   * Teachers have detailed results from all assessments. Please contact them with more detailed results or for explanation.
4. Principal’s Report (6:50-7:00)
   * Family and Student Engagement is a main focus this school year.
   * Love of Literacy Day is coming up! Look for information from your classroom teacher. Should have information by next week.
   * Acquire Restoration - Emerson parent owned business took – took care of all of the items on Ms. Anderson’s wish list! Will be talking to other local companies and promoting on their website about Emerson’s classroom wish lists.
   * Autism workshop- fliers in backpack mail.
   * $853 earned through UW parking. Raises money for our winter gear.
   * Swing choir- Mr. Olson. Performing ensemble that teaches repertoire that is not achieved in the classroom. Good opportunity for kids who love to sing and dance and would like more opportunities for performance.
   * Spring Musical in the spring- Mr. Olson is working on the rights. The production will have a choreographer. All 4th and 5th graders will be involved in some form. More information coming.
5. Treasurer Report-Deanna Schuppel (7:00-7:10)
   * Nov. and Dec. Treasurers reports presented.
   * Square One Fundraiser coming up.
6. Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities (7:10-7:40)
   * Fundraising Recap (Spell Check, Madison Marathon-Playground, Culver’s Scoopie Night-Playground) – Melanie Smith and Gabrielle Grimes
     + Playground- Committee will be aggressive about applying for grants this spring. Budget sheet handed out and discussed.
     + Spell Check- Will possibly need to move the date next year if it falls on Thanksgiving week. Lower attendance due to the holiday.
     + Culvers night- raised $359.50 and was a great Emerson community building event. Considering the possibility of changing location to East side mall Culvers- bigger dining area, etc.
     + Family Fun Night- Seeking lots of volunteers! Please send back form in the backpack mail, or sign up on volunteer spot.
   * Composting – Deb Lease/Shaili Pfeiffer
     + Composting is going very well at Emerson. Kids doing a great job sorting! Garbage produced at lunch time has drastically reduced.
   * Events (Fun Night) – Deb Lease and Joanna Griffin
7. New Business (7:40-7:45)
   * PTO grant suggestion- Bigger PA system for use at the Variety Show and other Emerson events.
   * Spelling Bee- As of now, winner gets e-reader or gift certificate. Idea was suggested that we reward ALL participants in the spelling bee, not just the winner. Funds would come from the PTO budget. For example- winner $50, runner up $25, everyone else $10 gift certificate to Half Price Books.
8. Adjournment – Thanks for coming!

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 10 – Parent Topic: How to help your child navigate friendships and other peer relationships