

Echo Hill PTO Meeting Minutes February 19, 2024



Call to Order Time: 6:32pm

Virtual Zoom meeting.

Quorum: Hegland Stouffer Becker Huston Wittkop

Welcome & Introductions

President Hegland began the meeting by announcing known PTO leadership openings for the 2024-2025 school year. The president role (Hayley) and the treasurer role (Abby Huston) will need to be filled for next school year, so if anyone is interested in learning more about those roles, please reach out to Hayley or Abby, respectively. Abby gave a quick overview of the treasurer's role, which includes managing the financial aspects of the group, including deposits, teacher stipends, and reimbursements. Please send all PTO leadership inquiries to echohillpto@yahoo.com.

- I. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Abby Huston reported on the financial standing of the PTO..
 - a. **Teacher Stipends:** Have paid out 12 this month; only six teachers have not yet turned in their stipend requests. Abby is crediting the uptick in requests to a handout placed in teacher mailboxes in recent weeks.
 - b. Bingo Night came in approximately \$50 under its allotted budget.
 - c. Goldfinch fundraiser night - check received for \$150; have not yet received checks from Fun Station or Your Pie for those fundraisers.
 - d. After tonight's approved request for funds, the teacher request fund stands at approximately \$1,750. This is how much the PTO can still allot to other requests this school year.
 - e. PTO's taxes were filed on January 24.
 - f. Abby received a \$250 charitable donation, along with a note to use the funds where they were needed most. The group present at the meeting decided to allocate these funds into the Hospitality budget line item, in support of meals for teachers over the upcoming conference week. We are grateful for this support.

II. Teacher Request & Vote: Mrs. Katie Merulla was present on the Zoom meeting and requested \$289.90 for new organizational bins for the early reader section of the library. These new bins are around \$6 each and would be an upgrade from the bins currently used — clear plastic boxes that can be seen through and clearly labeled, helping young readers find appropriate books. Mrs. Merulla used her stipend money to purchase a few bins earlier this year, and this request would fund the purchase of 80 more bins. Hayley Hegland made a motion to vote on Mrs. Merulla's request; Noelle Wittkop seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Mrs. Merulla will have Heather Feigenbaum's assistance to order the bins soon.

III. Principal's School Update: Mr. McDonald spoke briefly about professional development day today, which focused on cultural awareness and inclusion in our schools. He reported that FAST scores were in and results were good; more information to come. A new janitor begins at Echo Hill this week; she has been well received in other areas of the district and we are excited to have her on board at Echo Hill. Lastly, Mr. McDonald shared that we can expect significant budget cuts for next school year, likely including the loss of some staff positions. More details will be shared at a later date as details are worked out.

PTO Activities/Events

- IV. **Bingo Night:** great event with around 150 people in attendance. Candy prizes were a big hit; microphone and large whiteboard were excellent additions this year. We dropped pre-registration this year and it seemed to work out fine.
- V. **Family Paint Night:** Coming up on Friday, March 1, 6:30pm. Hayley Hegland will lead the virtual painting session and has issued a registration link for families to sign up and request a paint kit, if needed.
- VI. **STEAM Night:** planning remains underway for this event on Friday, April 19. Twelve presenters are confirmed; ideally we would secure 15 for an excellent event. Amy Stouffer and Katie Lipsett will do some Facebook promotion to help recruit additional presenters. Information will be sent home with students after Spring Break.
- VII. **Fourth Grade Yard Signs:** potentially changing the process this year, per Rapids Reproduction's request. They would prefer all district schools that offer the yard signs to coordinate their ordering window. We aren't sure if that will work or not, but we will consult with other PTOs to see if we can work something out this spring.

VII. Committee Leads Updates

- a) **Hospitality:** Molly Mulholland has begun working on conference meals for teachers; conferences are March 5 and 7. The allocation of \$250 additional funds will help her provide an Olive Garden soup and salad option for lunch one of the days, and a taco bar for dinner. Birthday cookies are still being donated through Staci, who works at Crumbl, which is a nice perk for our staff.
- b) **HyVee Receipts:** Noelle Wittkop reported that the receipts collected so far (\$144,000 value) have garnered \$720 for Echo Hill. Noelle is in the building almost every Wednesday, when she collects receipts from around the school. She is planning another contest in conjunction with spring conferences. Watch the Tuesday e-newsletters and PTO's Facebook for details and weekly totals. The traveling trophy for most receipts is currently with Mrs. Kinzenbaw.
- c) **Community Fundraising:** Curran Lipsett was not in attendance to give an update. The PTO is partnering with Chilled Freezer Meals all throughout March as a fundraising opportunity. Watch

the Tuesday newsletter and PTO's Facebook for additional details coming soon.

d) **Volunteer Coordinators:** coordinators were not in attendance to give an update.

Meeting adjourned 7:21 PM.

II. February 19, 2024 PTO meeting attendees: *VIRTUAL MEETING*

Name	Name	Name
Amy Stouffer	Hayley Hegland	Abby Huston
Noelle Wittkop	Michelle Schuler	Jessica Becker
Heather Lough	CJ McDonald	Katie Merulla
Molly Mulholland	Staci Sperflage	Ashlyn Wailand
"Zoe"		