

Echo Hill PTO Agenda / Meeting Minutes October 17, 2022



Call to Order Time: 6:32pm

Introductions: Board

Quorum: Lough Hegland Huston Hay

Dash for Cash review- Hayley Hegland

The Dash for Cash event was a great day and was an amazing fundraiser for Echo Hill. This year we removed the bean bags activity as well as the scooters activity, to help volunteers running the event. The two climbing walls and limbo activities were added in their place instead. After discussing with several board members that were present for the event on the budget, Hayley purchased some wood to modify the climbing walls, to make them easier for kids to climb. Chalk was added this year at the end of the obstacle course running, while kids were eating their snacks/water, resting and waiting for their teachers to pick them up. Preschool a.m. and p.m. classes were able to attend this year. Snacks were provided by Tracy Whitford (Pinnacle Realty). Thank you so much Tracy! Mrs. Hopkins graciously made a video capturing the fun day. Thank you to Mrs. Hopkins! Hayley asked if there were any suggestions for next year. One suggested how to make the snack and water table more organized, so there weren't so many children at the table at a time. Maybe having posted stations up (ex. Yellow square, red circle, etc), so each class has a designated spot, then calling the class up by station.

The Dash for Cash fundraiser was greatly successful in funds. Our goal was to raise \$12,000 to support our teachers and school and we raised \$17,429.95 to date! Way to go Echo Hill families! Abby Huston reported that we had \$5,615 given in cash /check. \$10,794.95 was donated through our Give Butter site. This was the first year using Give Butter and we have received good feedback using this site. With most online donations there is always a fee that is applied. 96% of those that paid online waived this fee for their donations, so we only had to pay Give Butter \$20.05, which was a significant decrease from previous years. Thank you so much families for helping give Echo Hill every cent of your intended donation! Also, Give Butter automatically sends out letters for tax deduction purposes, which takes this responsibility off of the treasurer. We have had \$1,020 received so far in company matches, so thank you to all of those that submitted for that. Thank you to Amy Stouffer for the marketing flyers and online marketing she did to help promote awareness and what this event/fundraiser provides for our school. A suggestion for the future is to possibly inform parents on the process of how different local companies go about submitting matching donations. One suggested that asking if the company is okay with parents promoting this before anyone posts something to social media would be a good idea.

Trunk or Treat Update- Hayley Hegland on behalf of Jessica Becker

Trunk or treat will be held on Sunday October 30th from 2:00-3:30 in the school bus loop. We currently have 15 trunks and we would ideally like to have 20 trunks to make the event a bit more spread out and fun for the kids attending. If anyone is interested, please sign up on our website at echohillpto.com. Candy will be provided for this event, so no need to bring your own. We had two Echo Hill family owned businesses donate to provide the candy. Thank you to 'Siamville Thai Cuisine' and to 'Just Make Music' for sponsoring this event. We will be using some of the money donated for this event to provide some games/items for drawings. Previously this event was held on a Friday night for 1 hour. With it being on a Sunday (and not fearing it being too dark), it has been extended to 1.5 hours. The deadline to sign up for a trunk will be this Wednesday Oct. 19th. Last year you were to check in and put your name in for a raffle prize when you arrived. This year, you can put your name in at the end, so there won't be a backup of people waiting at the table(s). We are looking for a few volunteers that may help run the table during this event. If interested please contact the PTO at echohillpto@yahoo.com

General Business

- **Treasurer's Report-** Abby Huston

Abby has been collecting teacher stipends and reimbursing these teachers. She has processed 15/22 so far. The expenses for Dash for Cash were \$539.37. The budget was originally \$500, but due to the wood materials being bought to help with the climbing walls, it pushed it slightly over. This switch was approved by the board members present at the event. Abby has been processing reimbursement checks for other events such as trunk or treat, family bingo night, and homecoming. Everything so far is within the budgets allotted for these events. She has also been sending receipts to those that donated to Dash for Cash with a check/cash.

Principal's School Update -

CJ was unable to attend this meeting and didn't have any updates to provide for this month.

Committee Lead Updates:

Volunteer Coordinators -

Kira or Kim were not able to attend this meeting and no messages from them at this time. One mentioned that more hands are needed for the monthly workshops. If you are flexible on a Monday and are willing to help, please join them. The next Workshop date is November 14

from 9:15-10:45. Please see their weekly emails for upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Hospitality - Molly Mulholland

It is conference week at Echo Hill and Molly is planning delicious treats/food for our teachers for staying late and meeting with parents. Thursday this week, she will be providing a popcorn bar for all of the staff during the day and Jimmy John sandwiches for those that will be there late that evening. Thank you to those that have donated the sides, beverages and desserts to accompany their sandwiches. Next Tuesday the teachers will be treated with pizza and breadsticks and perhaps a salad as well. Thank you for donating to these meals to show our thanks to our amazing Echo Hill staff!

Molly has also been delivering birthday treats to the staff. So far August and September birthday treats have been delivered. October birthday treats are going out this week. This year, she is providing them with Scooter cookies. Thank you Molly for spoiling our Echo Hill staff and for all of you for donating to our Dash for Cash to pay for these sweet treats and meals.

Hyvee Receipts- Amanda Snyder Pierce

No updates on Hyvee receipts at this time. Please continue to collect these receipts and send them in with your child.

Community Fundraising- Curran Lipsett

Thank you to those that attended the Bart's Farm family event last week. Echo Hill received \$60 from your purchases made that afternoon. Echo Hill also received \$250 from the September Dine Out for Echo Hill night at Barrel House. There will likely be another restaurant night in November. Check our website for more information to come.

PTO Events/Activities-

Yearbook: Hayley on behalf of Jessica Becker

Please order your yearbook soon if you plan to get one. The school receives some extra yearbooks for children that may not be able to afford one. You may always go back and edit your customized pages later in the year if you wish to do so.

Apparel Sale-Amanda Snyder Pierce

She has received 154 orders so far. The store will be closing this Thursday Oct. 20th. Please place your order online if you wish to receive Echo Hill apparel this year.

Playground/Outdoor Enhancement- Hayley Hegland

With having a great financial fundraiser this year and having some funds left over from last school year, the PTO is looking to purchase new additions to our playground for kids. We are currently in the exploratory phase of discussing what kind of options we

would have with the school, district and insurance. This will be a lengthy process from start to finish, but we are very excited to start this process and see how we can get something added in the near future for the kids to enjoy.

***General Updates/Discussion**

* Reminder to those that have hosted an event. Please fill in an event sheet found on our website. This helps us plan for next year in what worked and what could be changed to make it work more efficiently in the future. Thank you!

* November Event Change- We are looking to do a drive for students to help families in need. Becky Garms is looking to do this around Thanksgiving time. Alex H. will be helping her with this event.

* If you are interested in hosting a family night in December, please reach out to our board. In the past, we have held family paint night during this month. This event is moved to February this year, so we are looking for ideas for December.

Questions

Where is the best place to find information and updates on PTO events? Echo Hill families of Iowa page on Facebook as well as our website at <https://www.echohillpto.com>

Next Meeting: November 21, 2022, 6:30 pm

Adjourned Time: 7:25p.m.

Oct. 17, 2022 PTO meeting attendees:

Name	Name	Name
Hayley Hegland	Amy Stouffer Becky Garms	Noelle Wittkop
Alex Hierl	Kristen Wyckoff Amanda Snyder	Heather Lough
Abby Huston	Carrie Hay Sarah Fridono	Curran Lipsett
Molly Mulholland	Carly McMannus	