



Call to Order Time: 6:30pm

Quorum: McDonald Hegland Stouffer

- I. **Welcome & Introductions** - all in attendance

### PTO Activities/Events

- II. **Dash for Cash Event Review:** it was a great event again this year, and we appreciate the excellent turnout of volunteers to help with the fun day. The bubble obstacle was new this year and especially appreciated by the younger students. Suggestion emailed from Echo Hill parent: allow parents to come and spectate during the fun run portion of the day. Mr. McDonald said he likes parent participation, but has concerns about parents gathering in the bus loop and other busy spaces on this busy day. President Hegland added that if a parent wishes to participate but all volunteer slots are already full, please feel free to email the PTO – we can always take more volunteers. Traffic in the bus loop was a challenge despite safety cones blocking the driveway to prevent vehicles in this area. Echo Hill parent Katie Van Den Heuvel has indicated she would like to coordinate the Dash for Cash fun day next year. For financial totals from Dash for Cash, please see the Treasurer’s report later in these meeting minutes.
- III. **Bart’s Farm Event Review:** weather was not favorable again this year, with sharp lightning and storms moving into the area during the event timeframe. We received just \$16.95 in proceeds from the event.
- IV. **Trunk or Treat Update:** event coordinator Ashlyn Wailand reported that 15 trunks were signed up for the event at meeting time with more expected to add to the total. Candy was purchased today, plus small toys/trinkets to supplement the candy. No raffle this year, but will take a vote for kids’ favorite trunk. Volunteers are needed to host the PTO table during the event; Volunteer Coordinators will include that when they send out the sign-up link again to the volunteer database. The event was mistakenly listed on a community calendar for a few days, but the business removed it when we explained that this event was limited to Echo Hill families (not open to the public). Thanks to our two event sponsors: Just Make Music and Siamville Thai Cuisine. We appreciate your support.
- V. **Apparel Sale Update:** Amanda Pierce Snyder was not at the meeting but sent an update in her absence. Both Linn Mar and Echo Hill-specific clothing will be available through local vendor Level 10; watch for a table with apparel samples set up in Echo Hill lobby during conference days. If you stop in for conferences, please take a moment to tidy up the table if it needs it. The sale runs through November 3; items are expected at school by December 11. More details will be coming via Facebook and the weekly newsletter.
- VI. **Principal’s School Update:** CJ McDonald reported that it’s been a busy week but things are going

well. America Reads is coming up soon and that's always a highlight for the kids and staff alike. The Linn-Mar football players have been helping some mornings in the drop-off line, which brings a lot of smiles and high fives from the students. They're a welcome addition. No other updates at this time.

## VII. **General Business**

**a) Treasurer's Report:** Dash for Cash was a big success, with \$14,748.91 collected in cash, checks, and online donations through the GiveButter platform. We know this total will grow as company matches are processed and received from various corporations and local employers. Treasurer Abby Huston predicts that our total will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$18,400 give or take. Exact total to be given at a later date. Shout out to Amy Stouffer for her ability to meet for money collection and counting throughout the fundraiser, and to Katie Lipsett for doing a great job on the marketing/publicity/communication of the fundraiser. We appreciate your help in making Dash for Cash a huge success!

**b) Teacher Stipends Update:** Just 9 of 35 teacher stipends awarded to date. The stipends are in the amount of \$100 per teacher to be used for classroom needs, and must follow certain documentation requirements. Suggestion from Molly Mulholland to purchase items from their wish lists, but doing that is tricky with the documentation requirements. Treasurer Abby Huston will continue to remind teachers to turn in their stipend requests.

## VIII. **Committee Leads Updates**

**a) Hospitality:** Molly Mulholland reported that food plan is ready for conferences week coming up. Caramel apple bar, pizza and salads coordinated for Tuesday evening; Zio Johnno's pasta coordinated for Thursday night. The teachers are always very grateful for the food and special treatment during their busiest times. Also, having Stacy Sperflage's involvement in the monthly birthday treats for staff has been such a nice addition. She is on staff at Crumbl Cookie, and she provides cookies regularly for staff, including the monthly birthday treats – much appreciated!

**b) Hy-Vee Receipts Update:** PTO Co-VP Noelle Wittkop was sick and not in attendance but sent an update in her absence: \$53,745.98 contributed so far in HyVee receipts, which totals \$268.73 for our school so far. The trophy contest is ongoing, with Mrs. Lappe in the lead at this time. The receipt contest runs through October 20. Watch for trophy totals coming soon. Alex Hierl suggested that a small flyer be sent home with students to promote upcoming events (like the HyVee contest and others) as parents are not always the best about checking emails and seeing announcements online. Will pass this suggestion to Katie Lipsett for consideration for upcoming events.

**c) Community Fundraising & Activities:** no update given.

**d) Volunteer Coordinator update:** next workshop is October 19 at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria. Meet other parents, bring your little ones and help prep materials for teachers. All are welcome.

## IX. **General Updates / Open Discussion:**

America Reads is coming soon, and there will be lots of volunteer opportunities. Watch your inbox for sign-ups and details.

Book Fair will again be open during conference times; students have the option to purchase books and other items during their free time or with a parent during conferences. Suggestion to work with Deb Bundy on a “book fund” of sorts to ensure that all kids have an opportunity to purchase books. Echo Hill does not have very many reduced lunch families, but Mr. McDonald will mention this to Deb Bundy as an idea to explore.

School supplies: the PTO has an abundance of school supplies in the PTO closet. If there are any students or teachers in need of these, please reach out to the PTO as we can provide some from our stash.

Reminder to complete event sheets for continuity of information and helpful notes from year to year.

Reminder to record your time for this meeting and other volunteer efforts.

X. **Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.**

**October 16, 2023 PTO meeting attendees:**

| Name           | Name             | Name           |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Amy Stouffer   | Hayley Hegland   | CJ McDonald    |
| Sarah Lisenbee | Michelle Schuler | Heather Lough  |
| Ashlyn Wailand | Molly Mulholland | Susan Rustwick |
| Abby Huston    | Alex Hierl       |                |
|                |                  |                |
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For more information about Echo Hill PTO, please visit [www.echohillpto.com](http://www.echohillpto.com)