

Echo Hill PTO Agenda / Meeting Minutes January 3, 2022



Call to Order Time: 6:30pm

Introductions: Board and Principal

Quorum: Hay Hegland McDonald Becker Lough

Family Paint Night Review -

Virtual family paint night in December was a success. There was great feedback on the social media sites and kids seemed excited about their finished products. There were approximately 20 kits that the PTO put together for families that requested them and all others that attended purchased their own materials. With making only 20 kits it put us just slightly under budget that was allotted for this event. A great turnout and we hope to do this event again in the future.

Upcoming PTO Event, January Family Bingo Night

Family Bingo night was to take place on January 21st, however, due to the coordinator not being able to attend that evening, it will be moved to January 28th at 6:00pm. This event is scheduled to take place at Echo Hill in the cafeteria. Information about this will be coming out shortly. Check the PTO website at echohillpto.com. Becky Garms will be checking with Mrs. Bundy (school counselor) to see if a charitable donation would be possible for this event. Mrs. Bundy usually does a food drive the week of Valentine's, so we don't want to overlap. More information will be posted once logistics are set. Stay tuned and we hope to see you there!

January Dine Out for Echo Hill-

Dine out for your PTO will be on January 10th from 5-9pm at Panda Express. 20% of the proceeds from this evening will go back to our PTO to help our teachers and students. We received a check for \$128 from Chipotle for our December Dine Out date. Thank you to all that attended that night and we look forward to seeing many of you again next week!

Also, are you interested in helping with the PTO? We are looking for someone that might be interested in setting up the Dine Out events for us. If this is something you are interested in doing, please contact us at echohillpto@yahoo.com.

As always we appreciate all of your support. Thank you!

February- Family Activity- Cultural Night

We had planned for cultural night to take place on the 18th of February; however, with Covid numbers in our area going up, there may be difficulty of getting volunteers and the logistics of close proximity with booths, this may need to change. At this time, the board is looking at an event elsewhere such as bowling or a new indoor fun place opening soon. More details on this will be

given at the February PTO meeting on 2-7-22.

Principal Report - CJ McDonald -

Today was the first day of volunteers in the building and it was nice to see new faces. TV purchases have begun. The school is waiting to get a quote from the electric company contracted through the school on where they can be placed and what will need to be done to get them up and running. Based on that quote will determine if the PTO will be purchasing 3 or 4 TVs for the building. The Echo Hill road sign has been ordered and will be installed for free. Not sure when that will be delivered and installed at this time.

Treasurer's Report - Hayley Hegland on behalf of Stacey Corwin -

Teacher stipends- Thank you for submitting these and if you haven't, a reminder to do so. We have a little over half of the teachers who have submitted their stipends. There is \$75 allotted for each teacher to use on classroom items. Debra Barry (math strategist) contacted the PTO to see if she was included in this. Her position was added after the budget was decided upon. The board okayed this request and the budget line may need to increase by \$75. CJ also informed us that there has been a new student support teacher that has been hired for Echo Hill. This line may need to increase to \$150 to accommodate both teachers. That is, if everyone uses their stipends allotted before the end of the school year. Hayley will look into this before the school year closes.

Amazon Smile- Every quarter the PTO receives a kickback from Amazon. From the July 1st-Sept. 30th quarter the PTO received \$367.30. The board was hoping for \$500 for the year from Amazon, so a big thank you to all that have helped with this. The board is excited to see what the next quarter will bring in. If you are interested in helping with this, go to the PTO website (echohillpto.com) under the 'donate now' tab to find the easy steps on how to set up Amazon Smile and select Echo Hill PTO to receive your donation. Thank you for your help!

Additional funds- We have additional funds in our account from the previous year(s), due to cancelled events. The board has looked at school enhancement projects for this money. It seems best to spread the money out for several projects versus one big project. The TVs as mentioned in CJ's report will be purchased with this money. Just waiting on the final quote to determine if 3 or 4 will be purchased. The board is also looking to add something small to the playground outside. This may or may not be completed this year, but something on the radar for the future.

There has been discussion if the specials teachers would like a BenQ for them to share. CJ is working on getting a quote for how much this would cost and then the specials teachers can request this at a future meeting.

Since we didn't have Kona Ice for the students in the fall, we have extra funds available. Hayley asked CJ to keep this in mind if they are wanting to give the students an extra treat in the coming months.

Miscellaneous:

STEAM night: This is a very popular, well attended event held at Echo Hill. The board is reaching out for volunteers for this event. If you, your spouse, or grandparent(s) are willing to help, please contact us at echohillpto@yahoo.com. Allie Adams (a STEM teacher at Hazel Point- and Echo Hill parent), has offered to co-coordinate this event with anyone that might be interested in helping her. The event will take place on April 22nd from 6:00-7:45.

CJ is going to remind staff to please upload pictures for the yearbook, so Jessica B. can begin putting that together. Also, a reminder for them to use their stipend money if they haven't already done so.

There will be no family activities scheduled for March due to spring break. April will be STEAM night and May will be an inflatable day for the students.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality - Hayley Hegland on behalf of Jessica Witt

Conferences will be approaching in March, so look for more information on ways to support Jessica in February. Also, if you are interested in taking over Hospitality for next school year, please contact us at echohillpto@yahoo.com. Jessica has done an amazing job and we would love for someone to shadow her in the coming months for this position. Hospitality includes getting treats each month for staff birthdays, organizing meals/snacks for conference weeks and organizing teacher appreciation week in May.

Volunteer Coordinators - Amanda DeSalvo/Carrie Hay -

Carrie thanked all those who helped fill projects right before the holiday break. It was a busy time, and their willingness to step up and help were greatly appreciated. Volunteer workshop for the month of January has a change date. It will be next Wednesday January 12th, instead of this Wednesday the 5th, to allow teachers more time to collect projects to be done. More requests are coming in from teachers to help in the library and with music productions. Look for more information from us in the coming days.

If you are not an active volunteer and you do not receive volunteer opportunity emails from Amanda and Carrie and would like to, please contact them at ehvolunteers@linnmar.k12.ia.us

Amazon Smile/Box Tops/Hy-Vee receipts -

Earning cash for our students and classrooms is as easy as shopping at Hy-Vee and saving your receipts. For every \$250 in receipts submitted, Hy-Vee awards \$1 to Echo Hill Elementary at intervals throughout the school year. When you have a stack of Hy-Vee receipts, simply send them to school with your Echo Hill student or drop them off at the school office. Our Hy-Vee Cash 4 Students coordinator(s) tally and turn in the receipts, and cash comes back to our school. Thank you for supporting our school in this way.

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 echohillpto.com

Next Meeting: February 7, 2022 @ 6:30pm

Adjourned Time: 7:10pm

January 3, 2022 PTO meeting attendees: (Zoom names displayed)

Name	Name	Name
CJ McDonald	Hayley Hegland	Carrie Hay
Amanda DeSalvo	Amy Stouffer	Heather Lough
Becky Garms	Noelle W.	Kim Westland
Jessica Becker		