

## Echo Hill PTO Agenda / Meeting Minutes January 16, 2023

### Zoom meeting



**Call to Order Time: 6:32pm**

**Introductions:** Board

**Quorum:** Lough Hegland Huston Hay

**Treasurer's Report-** Abby Huston

- 14 stipends for teachers are left to go out. If you haven't already turned in your receipts for this, please do so.
- We have \$2,020.75 left in the teacher requested budget for the year. We have had 3 requests so far this year. If teachers have a request they would like for their students, please reach out to us.
- We received a check for \$93.80 for box tops. Thank you for supporting the PTO by scanning your box top receipts.
- We have received \$1,400 in matching donations from Dash for Cash. Thank you for submitting this to your company(s).
- We have received \$224 from Amazon. Thank you for choosing Echo Hill as your charitable donation destination.
- Taxes have been filed as of 1/16/23 and that cost was \$40.
- Other checks that have gone out are: Hyvee receipt cocoa party, hospitality, winter social, and dash for cash expenses

**Teacher Request-** Katie Merulla

Mrs. Merulla is our librarian at Echo Hill and she is seeking \$415.87 for mesh zipper pouches for library books for grades Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade. Since Covid, with students having more water bottles in the classrooms, water damage to books has become an increasing problem. Sometimes the parent replaces them, but a lot of times they go unnoticed and then later mold is found inside the books. To help alleviate this problem and to save the books, Mrs. Merulla is looking into mesh zipper pouches that are waterproof for the kids to place their library books into for checkout and are returned in these bags as well. Each student will have their own bag in these three given grades. If this is successful and the problem decreases, she will look to add Third Grade and Fourth Grade as well in the future. At this point it is happening more often in the K, 1, and 2 grades, therefore, starting with those classes first. The hope is they will last for a few years, before they need to be replaced. Hayley motioned the requested money, Heather Lough seconded the request and all that were present were in agreement. Motion is passed and Heather F. in the front office will get them ordered and PTO

will reimburse payment. Thank you for reaching out to us Mrs. Merulla and we hope these help.

### **Playground/Outdoor Enhancement Update-** Hayley Hegland

Hayley, Jessica Becker and Jessica Witt have been working diligently on getting approval for the new playground/outdoor equipment for Echo Hill. Discussions with CJ, Teresa Garcia, and the district on insurance, space, what could be approved or not have been taking place for months.. Below is the proposed:

1. Replace the current tetherball poles (that are broken), with 2 fun tunnels. Either 2 of the same or 2 different kinds of fun tunnels.
2. Replace the current balance climbing pieces with oversized climbing jacks.
3. Replace the current skateboard balance board (which is broken) with a teeter totter.

The current equipment has been in place since 2008 and has a lot of wear and tear and is breaking. Hayley is requesting a line item to be put into the budget for \$11,000 to cover the cost of this equipment. This money is already in our account and will not be pulled from any other budgeted items or teacher requests.

Hayley motioned for the request, Jessica Becker seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the motion was granted. Abby Huston our treasurer will make the line item present in our budget, so once final approval has been made by the district and administration, Hayley can make the purchase. Thank you to Hayley, Jess. B. and Jess. W. for all of your hard work on planning this and attending meetings to help better our playground at Echo Hill!

### **Principal's School Update -** CJ McDonald

Today teachers had a professional development day and tomorrow teachers will be working on report cards. These will be out to parents on Monday January 23rd. Illness peaked at Echo Hill before holiday break, but has been better since returning this month. The first week back was crazy with the weather, but teachers and students are now in a groove with a consistent work week routine.

### **Book and Game Swap- Winter Social Review-** Hayley Hegland

This social event took place in December. The PTO collected used books and games from Echo Hill families leading up to the December 6th date. We had a great turnout of donations that took up 3 large tables in the cafeteria. The social took place after the 4th grade Echo Hill Singer performance. There were cookies and drinks available and people could take a book(s) and/or games with them home. It was well attended and lots of positive feedback to our PTO for putting this together. This will be something we will look at doing again in the future. After the evening, all items left were put into the teacher's lounge for staff to look through and take what they would want for their classrooms. After a week, all items were donated to the Catherine McAuley Center Life Program. Thank you so much to everyone that donated items for this and for all that attended.

**January Activity: Family Bingo (1/27/23 @ 6:30pm)-** Hayley Hegland, Jessica Becker, Noelle Wittkop, Becky Garms

Family Bingo night is approaching. We currently have 144 bingo cards and we are going to get a few more so we have 150 cards total. Noelle and Jessica have been busy laminating these cards and getting them ready for the event. Lots of prizes are ready to go and we will be getting candy, so everyone gets to leave with something. 15 families have signed up as of today. We will be buying expo markers so kids can mark the called numbers instead of using chips. We will use the big white board in the library to write the numbers called, so people in the back can check if you didn't hear. A microphone will be used as well. 1 to 2 volunteers will be needed the night of to help check Bingo cards. This was a well attended event last year, so sign up now at [echohillpto.com](http://echohillpto.com) to reserve a spot.

This will also be a charitable event. Becky Garms has been in contact with the Cedar Valley Humane Society. They don't have the space to collect items such as blankets or toys, but they are in need of food (dog or cat) or monetary donations. Monetary donations will be cash only the night of the event. The food donations will also only be the night of, so kids aren't lugging these bigger items into school. Look for more information on this in the newsletter or on the PTO website. Thank you Becky for organizing this for the PTO.

#### **Committee Lead Updates:**

**Volunteer Coordinators** - Kim Graulein and Kira Cannon

Kira nor Kim were available to attend the meeting. No updates at this time.

**Hospitality** - Molly Mulholland

- Cookies continue to go out each month for teacher's birthdays.
- Planning is starting to take place for the conference meals/snacks that will take place in March (2nd and 7th). There will be 1 lunch for all staff and 1 dinner for those that have to stay late. Snacks are planned for the week as well. More to come on that next month.

**Hyvee Receipts-** Amanda Snyder Pierce

No updates on Hyvee receipts at this time.

**Community Fundraising and Activities-** Curran Lipsett

No updates at this time. He is working on a Roughriders night or a family ice skating night, stay tuned for more information.

#### **PTO Events/Activities-**

**Yearbook:** Jessica Becker

No updates at this time. Sales are still open. You can order your yearbook at any

time. Visit the Echo Hill PTO website to place your order.

**School Supply Pack Timeline-** Hayley Hegland

We will be planning school supply packs soon. Looking for teacher's input as to what was great from this year and what supplies could be improved. More to come on this in the coming months.

**\*General Updates/Discussion**

February activity night will be a family painting night, hosted by Hayley Hegland. Look for more information to come next month.

Noelle Wittkop had a suggestion for a future family night at the Marion Library. They seem to have a lot of neat activities they can do for kids/families.

**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:*** February 20, 2023, 6:30 pm

**Adjourned Time:** 7:28p.m.

**Jan. 16, 2023 Zoom PTO meeting attendees:**

Name	Name	Name
Hayley Hegland	Amy Stouffer      Becky Garms	Noelle Wittkop
Alex Hierl	Jessica Becker      Keith	Heather Lough
Abby Huston	Carrie Hay      CJ McDonald	Katie Murella
Molly Mulholland		