

Echo Hill PTO Meeting Minutes November 20, 2023



Call to Order Time: 6:32pm

Meeting relocated to Echo Hill cafeteria as Art Room was locked and Mr. McDonald was not in attendance.

Quorum: Hegland Stouffer Becker Huston

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

II. **General Business**

a. **Treasurer's Report:** Trunk or Treat expenses came in \$106 under budget this year. Bart's Farm event produced \$25.20 (miserable weather cut down on participation). Also received a \$267 check from EPI, the school supply kit provider – unclear about this reimbursement, but it's dated 2020. Treasurer Abby will follow up with them for more info. Dash For Cash company matches continue to roll in; \$50 from City of Cedar Rapids match; \$1,375 from Benevity; \$582 from Aegon/TransAmerica.

b. **Teacher Stipends:** These are pre-approved for \$100 per year for each teacher, they only need to turn in the receipt from purchase for their classroom. Hayley/Abby will remind teachers again via email to submit this use-it-or-lose-it funding. Reminder to promote this stipend money if you're volunteering in the classroom and can encourage a teacher to use their stipend. Jess Becker inquired about a Core Board for the playground; she will follow up with Mr. McDonald on costs and details.

III. **Principal's School Update:** Mr. McDonald was not in attendance, so no update was given.

PTO Activities/Events

- IV. **Trunk or Treat Review:** Event Coordinator Ashlyn Wailand reported that we ended up with 17 total trunks this year. Also, lots of leftover candy/small toys. Suggestion was raised to limit vehicles to the inner bus loop (not inner + outer) to help with foot traffic. Thanks to our two event sponsors: Just Make Music and Siamville Thai Cuisine. We appreciate your support.
- V. **Book, Puzzle, Game Swap:** coming up on Thursday, December 14, for the second year. This event is in conjunction with the Echo Hill Singer's Winter Concert that evening in the gym. The PTO provides cookies and drinks and manages the "swap" of board games, books, and puzzles in the cafeteria following the concert. Students may bring in gently used items beginning Wednesday, Nov. 28 – look for the bin in each classroom pod, or drop off at the school office. Last year's event was fun and successful. Items are exchanged between families, then relocated post-event to the teacher's lounge for teachers to choose from anything leftover. Finally, the remaining items are donated – this year to Catherine McAuley Center – for others to enjoy. Thanks to Ashlyn Wailand for coordinating this one, and to Noelle Wittkop for her support with collection bins in the classrooms. Watch for more details coming on Facebook and in Tuesday e-newsletters.

VI. **Apparel Sale:** Sale Coordinator Amanda Snyder was not in attendance to give an update on sales. The example table was a new feature this year, and maybe was too much/too many items to manage. If that is offered next year, suggested cutting back on sample quantities. Also noted that Echo Hill's sale ran concurrently with Hazel Point's sale... unsure if that effected sales or not. When orders are ready, they will be distributed home with students, or parents can pick up from Level 10 directly.

VII. Committee Leads Updates

- a) **Hospitality:** Molly Mulholland was not in attendance; not update given.
- b) **HyVee Receipts:** Noelle Wittkop reported that the receipts collected so far have garnered \$511 for Echo Hill. Mrs. Kinzenbaw's 4th grade class won the receipt challenge recently and they are so proud of their trophy! Noelle is in the building 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 for details and weekly totals.
- c) **Community Fundraising:** Curran Lipsett was not in attendance. Goldfinch in Uptown Marion fundraiser hosted an Echo Hill night on November 13. Also planning an Echo Hill night at The Fun Station for Thursday, December 21. Watch Facebook and Tuesday e-newsletter for more specifics, coming soon.
- d) **Volunteer Coordinators:** neither Kira Cannon nor Kim Graulein were in attendance. No report this month. Next workshop is Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:00 AM.
- e) **STEAM Night:** the committee has already met once for this event in April 2024. Starting the process early this year for securing presenters and planning details. More to come.

VIII. General Updates / Open Discussion:

- **No meeting in December**, so next meeting is January 22, 2024, in the Art Room.
- **Date of the May meeting** may need to be moved to accommodate a scheduling conflict for many board members.
- **Discussed Bingo Night**, scheduled for February 2. Jess Becker will lead this event; considering dropping the prize table in lieu of assorted candy bar prizes this year. Last year we had a \$250 sponsorship to cover expenses.
- **Paint Night** was discussed. It's scheduled for March 1, led by Hayley Hegland. Discussed if making it an in-person event (rather than virtual) was advantageous; sounds like we'll keep it virtual for now.
- **Breakfast with Buddies** was discussed, including a recap of last year's details. The event is coming up on March 27-28; Staci Sperfslage has agreed to coordinate it this year.

Next meeting is January 22, 2024, 6:30 PM in the Art Room.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 PM.

IV. November 20, 2023 PTO meeting attendees:

Name	Name	Name
Amy Stouffer	Hayley Hegland	Abby Huston
Sarah Lisenbee	Michelle Schuler	Ashlyn Wailand
Alex Hierl	Staci Sperflage	Noelle Wittkop
Jess Becker	Heather Lough	