

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

October 11, 2023

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Middle School.

**PTO Board Attendees**: Co-President – Melissa Davis; Vice-President – Lauren Otto; Secretary – Maureen LaRocca; Treasurer – Trish Specht

**PTO Guest Attendees:** The Middle School Principal, Mr. Holl, the Elementary School Physical Education teacher, Mr. Montpetit, and the PTO Teacher Reps, Mrs. Percoco and Mrs. Steuerwald were present.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 pm. Melissa Davis welcomed everyone.

**Minutes:** The September 2023 Meeting Minutes were dispensed, and members reviewed them. The Minutes are also available online at <https://empto.org>. A motion to approve the September 2023 minutes was made by Mrs. Steuerwald and seconded by Olivia Ruddick.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Trish Specht read the Treasurer’s report.

**Events/Fundraisers Updates:**

1. *Completed*:
	1. E.S. Ice Cream Social was September 22nd. Melissa Davis was chairperson. Students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge enjoyed ice cream and toppings as their reward. Melissa reported it went well and that the kids had a blast.
	2. E.S. Picture Day was September 26th. We had parent volunteers to help the children look their best and be camera ready. They brought combs, wipes, and mirrors. Mrs. Steuerwald commented that having the extra hands at the E.S. level was very helpful! Picture retakes will be held on 11/17 at the E.S.
	3. M.S. Picture Day will be September 28th. Picture retakes will be on 11/8 at the M.S.
	4. Spiritwear Sale ended on September 29th. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. It was very successful.
2. Ongoing or Upcoming Business:
	1. ByLaws Vote: The Revised By-Laws were adopted by a vote of the membership. The results were: 13 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain.
	2. Membership Drive is ongoing. Thank you to those who have submitted their membership forms and dues. We appreciate your support. It’s not too late to sign up, so if you would like to join the PTO, please return the yellow membership form/dues in an envelope labeled with your child’s name, teacher, and “PTO Membership Form.” Membership forms can be printed off of our website, empto.org, and hard copies can be found in each school’s main office. Thank you!
	3. “Believe Kids” Fundraiser will run from 9/23 – 10/6 *(later extended to 10/13).* Trish Specht is the chairperson for this catalog fundraiser. The PTO will earn 40% of sales. Our goal is to raise at least $2,000. Students will receive prizes, such as key chains, based upon their level of participation. Another prize is the “Taxi Chair.” The highest selling student in each school will be “taxied” to their class by the principal in a rolling “taxi chair.”
	4. M.S. Book Fair is October 12-13 & E.S. Book Fair is October 19-20: Lauren spoke about both book fairs. There is a cashless e-wallet system that parents can set up online if they don’t want to send cash to school. The link to the e-wallet can be found on the PTO website, empto.org. The book fair will be open for teachers to shop on Friday from 3:00-3:30 at the M.S. and from 3:30-4:00 at the E.S. We could use more volunteers to help set up and break down both events. Volunteers, please note that there is a new Visitor Sign-In procedure in the schools’ main offices. Please bring a photo ID to volunteer.
	5. E.S. Harvest Fest is October 19. Lauren spoke about this event. The NJHS students will be volunteering and earning community service hours. We could still use more volunteers. Sign-up is through the sign-up genius link. The Evening Book Fair will run concurrently with the Harvest Fest, so parents and families will have the opportunity to shop.
	6. 2nd Annual Parents’ Night Out is on Monday, October 23 from 7-8 pm. Lauren Otto is the chairperson for this event. It will be held at Sunsets at Senix, on their back patio. Appetizers and soft drinks will be served (1 hour). There will be raffles as well. The cost of this fundraising event is $20 per person, money collected at the door. Please email Lauren Otto at missmartin02@gmail.com to RSVP.
	7. M.S. Grades 5/6 Halloween Dance is October 27. We do not have a chairperson yet for this event, so please consider volunteering to chair.There will be a DJ and refreshments. We will also need grades 5-6 parent volunteers to help chaperone the dance. Students may not leave the dance to attend the Trunk or Treat without a parent or guardian accompanying them. If a parent cannot pick up their child because s/he is already participating in the Trunk or Treat, that student will need a signed permission slip to leave the dance to join their parent at Trunk or Treat.
	8. M.S. Grades 5/6 Trunk or Treat is October 27 following the dance. Kerri Kleine is chairperson. Lauren will meet with Kerri on Monday to finalize the details. This event runs solely on parent participation, so please consider signing up to decorate a trunk. It will be set up in the back field behind the M.S. gym. There will be prizes for best costume, etc. Mr. Holl has expressed that Trunk or Treat should be restricted to grades 5 & 6 only.
	9. E.S. Fall Costume Parade is October 31. Melissa Davis will set up the Harvest décor in the E.S. lobby. Thank you to Baha’s Farm Stand for loaning us the seasonal decorations.
3. New Business:
	1. Halloween Candy Buy-Back Fundraiser (Maureen): Starting on November 1, please send in leftover unwanted Halloween candy to school. The candy is being collected by Riverhead orthodontist, Dr. Vic Grazina, who will be shipping the candy to U.S. military troops overseas. In return, Dr. Grazina will give us $1.00 per pound of candy donated as a fundraiser!
	2. K-1 Milk and Cookies is November 14. Samantha Scaturro and Melissa Webster are co-chairing this event. Mrs. Percoco is advising the chairs on how the event should be run. Children come in pajamas, bring a flashlight and some of their favorite books. The purpose of this event is to give parents and children an opportunity to share books together. The children will also enjoy milk and cookies and do some literacy activities. The NJHS students will be helping out to earn community service hours.
	3. We need Chairpersons for the following upcoming events.
		1. MS Halloween Dance (October): Lauren Crennan said that Mr. Holl specifically requested that the DJ not hand out party favors during the dance this year, as the students used them inappropriately last year.
		2. RWB Day on November 9. This event honors our local veterans. Chair will coordinate decorations.
		3. M.S. Spelling Bee on 11/16. Grades 5-8 students will compete in a school-wide Spelling Bee. The PTO will provide the trophies and refreshments. We need a chairperson to coordinate refreshments and décor.
		4. Winter Wonderland is currently scheduled for November 30, but may be moved to December 7. Tina Quaglino volunteered to chair this event.
		5. Turkey Trot is November 23. Mr. Montpetit spoke about this event. The Turkey Trot is expected to raise approximately $40K. The funds raised from this event typically go into the A.M.A. account, funds earmarked to enhance students’ Athletics, Art, & Music experiences. Past A.M.A. funds have been used to purchase ukeleles, 2 Ga-Ga Ball pits, and a Scoreboard for the M.S. Mr. Montpetit has said that if the PTO helps out more with this event, the proceeds will be split 50/50 between the A.M.A. account and the PTO savings account. A sign-up genius will go out looking for PTO volunteers to help with the event, to hand out t-shirts, help put up signs, course markers, hand out bibs, as well as solicit finish-line sponsors. The Turkey Trot flyer, sponsorship letter and sign-up genius will be posted on the PTO website, as well as in our Facebook group. Approximately 700 racers are expected.
4. Questions and/or Comments:
	1. Mr. Montpetit said he is working on getting turf for the Ga-Ga Ball pits, funded by the A.M.A. account.
	2. Samantha Scaturro commented on possibly raising PTO funds with a program similar to last year’s Sneaker Initiative: “Walk in Another’s Shoes.”
	3. It was suggested to use the Popcorn Machine more at events to raise funds.
	4. Mr. Holl mentioned a non-profit organization called “Chess Nuts.” They come into schools and conduct before school Chess Clubs and teach kids how to play Chess (parent cost involved.)
	5. Samantha Scaturro suggested doing a PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) program, timed with the annual Book Fair. Mr. Holl said he has heard of schools doing a “Book Prom”: students bring a book to the prom as a “date”.
	6. Lauren said that we are looking into asking the NJHS students to babysit during PTO meetings so that more parents are able to attend.

There being no further business, Melissa Davis motioned to adjourn, and Maureen LaRocca seconded the motion. The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School.