

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

November 15, 2023

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Elementary School.

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

**PTO Guest Attendees:** The EMO Director of Special Education/PPS, Ms. Pepey, and the PTO Teacher Rep, Mrs. Steuerwald, were present.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:01 pm. Melissa Davis welcomed everyone.

**Minutes:** The October 2023 Meeting Minutes were dispensed, and members reviewed them. The Minutes are also available online at <https://empto.org>. A motion to approve the October 2023 minutes was made by Melissa Davis and seconded by Lauren Otto.

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

**Events/Fundraisers Updates:**

1. Completed:
   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:* We currently have 168 Active Members, up about 25% from last year. We appreciate your support. Membership forms can be printed off of our website, empto.org, and hard copies can be found in each school’s main office.
   3. *“Believe Kids” Fundraiser* ran from 9/23 – 10/13. Trish Specht was the chairperson. Thank you for your support; we raised $7,410.50! Ms. Sarvis’ M.S. class and Mrs. Replak’s E.S. class won the pizza parties. The district’s highest selling students, Charlie Edwards in the M.S. and Dominic Quaglino in the E.S, won the Taxi Challenge.
   4. *MS. Book Fair* was October 12-13 & *E.S. Book Fair* was October 19-20: Lauren chaired the Book Fairs for both schools. The M.S. had $3,181.18 in sales, which gives us $1,071.43 in Scholastic dollars to use to buy books and equipment for our schools. The E.S. had $9,968.73 in sales, which gives us $2,362.69 in Scholastic dollars and $1,000 cash for the PTO savings account. Next year, the M.S. needs more books at lower reading levels to meet the needs of all students. Thank you to our volunteers.
   5. *ES. Harvest Fest* was 10/19. Olivia Ruddick and Brandi Sciotto were co-chairs. The NJHS students volunteered and earned community service hours. Two giant pumpkins were raffled off. We made $578.57 in concession sales & raffles. If you have any pictures of the event you’d like to share, please forward them to this email: [info@empto.org](mailto:info@empto.org). The Evening Book Fair ran concurrently with the Harvest Fest. Thank you, volunteers!
   6. *2nd Annual Parents’ Night Out* was on 10/23, at Sunsets at Senix. Lauren Otto was the chairperson. There were appetizers, drinks, and raffles. This fundraising event was $20 per person. 15 people were in attendance. We raised $185.
   7. *M.S. Grades 5/6 Halloween Dance* was 10/27. Kerri Kleine chaired. There was a D.J., costume prizes, and refreshments. Thank you to all of the volunteers!
   8. *MS. Grades 5/6 Trunk or Treat* was 10/27 following the Halloween Dance. Kerri Kleine was chairperson. It was a very successful event with lots of parent participation, with at least 30 decorated trunks! Thank you to everyone!

* 1. *E.S. Fall Costume Parade* was 10/31. (Melissa). Thank you to Baha’s Farm Stand for loaning us the seasonal decorations.
  2. *Halloween Candy Buy-Back Fundraiser* (Maureen): Leftover Halloween candy was collected by Riverhead orthodontist, Dr. Vic Grazina, who paid us $1 per pound of candy and will be shipping the candy to U.S. military troops overseas. We raised $200.
  3. *ES./M.S. Honoring Veterans’ RWB Day* was 11/9. Colin Salmaggi & Brittany Onorato co-chaired, thank you! They decorated the cafetorium beautifully for this event with red, white, and blue balloons. Coffee and donuts were served to the Veterans. Next year, we will serve more healthier snack options at the Veterans’ request. In the future, we will need to provide seating for the Veterans during the security check-in process.
  4. *E.S. K-1 Milk and Cookies Night* was 11/14. Melissa Webster was chairperson. Samantha Sacturro and Lauren Otto co-chaired. Mrs. Percoco graciously advised the chairs on how the event should be run. The purpose of this event is to give parents and children an opportunity to share books together. The children also enjoyed milk and cookies and did some literacy activities. The NJHS students helped out to earn community service hours. 100+ students attended.

1. Ongoing or Upcoming Business:
   1. *M.S. Spelling Bee* is on 11/16. Maureen LaRocca is chairperson. Grades 5-8 students will compete in a school-wide Spelling Bee. The PTO will provide the trophies and refreshments.
   2. *EMO Turkey Trot* will be on Thanksgiving Day, 11/23. Maureen LaRocca spoke about this. We are helping Mr. Montpetit find volunteers, sponsors and advertising for this event in exchange for 50% of the profits for the PTO savings account.
2. New Business:
   1. *The M.S. Holiday Gift Fair* will be on 11/30 & 12/1. *The E.S. Holiday Gift Fair* will be on 12/7 & 12/8. Karen Lee is chairing both fairs. She will need volunteers.
   2. *Winter Wonderland* has been moved to 12/7. Tina Quaglino is chairperson and is looking for volunteers. Our Annual Gingerbread House Contest is also that night.
   3. Chairpersons are still needed for the following 2024 events:
      1. M.S. Bingo Nights (January/February/March)
      2. E.S./M.S. Teacher Appreciation Week (May)
3. Questions and/or Comments:
   1. Someone asked why the security process is so quick at the M.S. and so time-consuming at the E.S. The PTO has no knowledge of the school district’s security system; this is a B.O.E. question.
   2. Mrs. Steuerwald & Trish Specht spoke about doing a Chinese Auction in the Spring. Venues such as Rock Hill C.C., J.C’s, and Sunsets at Senix are being considered.. Perhaps a Sunday Brunch?
   3. There was a discussion regarding the February Bake Sale, which was traditionally held on Valentine’s Day. The Kindergarten teachers have expressed concerns regarding their students eating a lot of sweets during lunch. Perhaps we can have the Kindergarteners attend the Bake Sale at the end of the day to buy a treat to take home. We are planning hold the Bake Sale on the day before the Sweetheart Dance, rather than on Valentines’ Day, so that the leftover treats can be used at the dance. We will continue with selling the friendship bracelets that students make and donate, which was very popular last year.

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

The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Middle School.