

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

December 7, 2022

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Middle School Cafetorium.

**PTO Board Attendees**: Co-President – Melanie Adlah; Vice-President – Lauren Crennan; Corresponding Secretary – Maureen LaRocca; Recording Sec’y – Vacant; Treasurer – Trish Specht

**PTO Guest Attendees:** The Middle School Principal, Mr. Holl, and the PTO Teacher Rep Mrs. Percoco were present. Please see PTO Attendance Sheet dated December 7, 2022 for the names of other meeting attendees.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:10 pm. Melanie Adlah welcomed everyone.

**Minutes:** The November, 2022 Meeting Minutes were dispensed after members reviewed them. The Minutes are also available online at <https://empto.org>. Motion to approve minutes was made by Sue Oldring and seconded by Trish Specht.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Trish Specht read the Treasurer’s report. Sue Oldring motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Mrs. Percoco seconded the motion. The following is a synopsis for November, 2022.

* NOVEMBER:
  1. Accounts’ Opening Balances (11/01/2022) are:
     1. Operating (Checking) Account: $19,158.47
     2. Savings Account: $47,271.56
     3. AMA Account: $24,426.22
  2. Account Activity:
     1. GoDaddy for Turkey Trot website domain: -$208.43
     2. Amazon Prime subscription: -$14.99
     3. Intuit Quickbooks subscription: -$92.33
     4. RWB (Veterans’) Day: -$38.97
     5. M.S. Halloween Dance & Trunk or Treat DJ & reimbursements: -$396.28
     6. E.S. Book Fair reimbursement: -$43.75
     7. Harvest Festival reimbursements: -$576.15
     8. Holiday Fair purchases: -$229.51
     9. Winter Wonderland purchases: -$293.14
     10. M.S. Spelling Bee reimbursement: -$158.77
     11. Copy Machine paper purchase: -$100.99
     12. Cash Box requests: $1,880.00 (Events: Harvest, WW, Holiday Fair, T. Trot)
     13. PTO Membership dues deposit: +$50.00
     14. Turkey Trot proceeds deposit: +$1,750.00
  3. Accounts’ Closing Balances for November (11/30/2022) are:
     1. Operating (Checking) Account: $14,932.63
     2. Savings Account: $47,271.56
     3. AMA Account: $25,676.22

**Fundraisers/Events Updates:**

1. *Completed*:
   1. Fall Spirit Wear Sale: Melanie Adlah ran this fundraiser. The Spirit Wear fundraiser is complete and it has been distributed. Thank you for your support! We raised $1,049.00. Thank you, Melanie, for organizing this! We are considering having a “Design-a-Logo” contest for Spring Spirit Wear. There could be a fee for entering the Logo Contest to help raise funds. Michelle Fernandez asked if we could buy the Spirit Wear in bulk and then sell it throughout the year. Melanie explained that we’ve tried that in the past, but it didn’t work well because there are minimum purchase requirements we have to meet. Also, we have no storage space to store inventory. Sue Oldring added that the Spirit Wear fundraiser has been the most successful it has ever been since Melanie took it over. We are finally making a profit with it. In the past, it was very hard because the PTO closet doesn’t lock and inventory would go missing. We would actually lose money. This is the first time in 10 years that Spirit Wear has actually been successful.
   2. E.S. Red, White & Blue Day: was held on November 10, 2022 to honor our local Veterans. Lauren Crennan chaired this event. This patriotic event honors our local veterans and this is the first year since the pandemic hit that we are allowed to have veterans attend in person. The PTO provided mini American flags for the students to wave during their performance. Tara Gassick created a lovely red, white, and blue balloon garland arch to decorate the stage. Thank you, Lauren & Tara!
   3. M.S. Grades 5-8 Spelling Bee: This event was held on 11/17/22. Sue Oldring chaired and spoke about this event. There was a big turnout and it was a great success! There were separate heats in each grade level before the finals. Trophies were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each grade level and a trophy for the school champion. A reception followed. Thank you, Sue!
   4. Sixth Annual EMO Turkey Trot “In Memory of Lisa Ringhoff” 5K Run/Walk, Thanksgiving Day 11/24/22: Mr. Montpetit ran this yearly community event. There was a big turn-out. The Turkey Trot start time was 9:00 am at the M.S. This was a certified race, with a town permit and a timer set up. 400 royal blue and white T-shirts were ordered for the participants. Businesses who sponsored the event had signs on display. Emergency personnel were present, and there were water stations and mile markers set up. The National Honor Society students handed out participants’ T-shirts on the Tuesday before the race. The proceeds from this event will go into the AMA account, which pays for extra recreational items for the students. Thank you, Mr. Montpetit, for organizing this wonderful event every year!
   5. E.S. “We’re Grateful for You” Breakfast: was held on 11/23/22. Trish Specht spoke about this. We hosted a breakfast for the Elementary School’s faculty and staff, to boost morale after recent emotionally taxing events. With member donations of approximately $700, we ordered breakfast heroes and other catered items from Hurricanes Deli in WHB. The teachers said it was a big hit! Unused funds will go towards another breakfast in February after the second trial and/or the annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in May. Michelle Fernandez suggested using some of the donations to plant a tree in memory of Thomas. Trish Specht collected the money, ordered the food, and set up the morning of. Maureen LaRocca cleaned up afterwards. Thank you, Trish & Maureen!
   6. Purchase of a Balloon Arch: Lauren Crennan ordered a balloon arch and towers for future events. Sue Oldring said there might be leftover funds from the Halloween Dance to cover the cost.
   7. Holiday Gift Fair: The M.S. Holiday Fair was held on 11/29 - 11/30/22. The E.S. Holiday Fair was held on 12/1 - 12/2/22. It was a great success and there were many volunteers. Karen Lee chaired this event. Thank you to Karen and all of our volunteers!
   8. E.S. Winter Wonderland & Gingerbread House Fundraiser Contest: was held on 12/1/22. Lauren Crennan spoke about this event. It was well attended. Santa was there, as well as crafts, a light show, hot cocoa and concessions (light up necklaces, etc). The NJHS assisted children at the craft tables. A big thank-you to the 7-11 in Center Moriches, which graciously donated the hot cocoa, milk and cups for concessions. The Santa’s name was “Santa Scott” and he was terrific! He volunteered his services for free, and we gave him and his crew a nice tip to cover their time and travel. He brought his own special Santa chair, elves, and gave out reindeer food for the kids. He can be found on Facebook and his Instagram is SantaScott61. In addition, many families participated in the Gingerbread House Contest. Attendees voted and the votes were tallied. Families were charged a $5.00 entrance fee as a fundraiser. There were 3 categories: Best Overall, Most Festive, and Most Creative. Gift card prizes were awarded to the winners for each category. A big thank-you to Michelangelo’s in Eastport and The Rainbow Rolls in Center Moriches for donating the gift cards. Last, a special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped make Winter Wonderland a huge success, especially Tara Gassick and Rebecca Sundin.
2. *Ongoing or Upcoming Business:*
   1. Moes Holiday Ornaments Fundraiser: ends on 12/10/22. Hope Kaufman chaired this fundraiser. 25% of sales go to the PTO. They are well made and ship promptly through Fed-Ex. We have posted our personal ornaments on the PTO Facebook and Instagram pages for members to view. Thank you, Hope!
   2. Purchase of New M.S. Bike Racks: Mr. Holl and Sue Oldring spoke about this. Mr. Holl researched the bike racks and provided a summary of what is available for purchase. He discussed in extensive detail all possibilities, locations, and pricing, including three quotes he obtained . Melanie Adlah spoke with Mr. Montpetit, who supports using funds from the AMA account to pay for the bike racks. Riding bikes to school is a great fitness activity for our students. The bike racks will help keep the students’ bikes safe and orderly. $6,000 is being requested from the AMA account to fund the purchase of two 18 foot bike racks, with bike slots on each side. A total of 72 bikes could be safely secured. The custodian, Bart, could install to save on installation charges. The funding for the bike racks will be voted on during our next meeting. Once the funding gets voted on, the proposal will be brought to the B.O.E. for final approval.
   3. Notepads & Pens for 2022-2023 PTO members – All active members will be given a PTO pen and a ”Note to School” notepad as a thank you for their continued support. Maureen LaRocca spoke about this. They will be distributed in January.
   4. E.S. K-1 Milk & Cookies Night : Lauren Crennan spoke about this. Hallie Glick is chair and Michelle Fernandez has volunteered to co-chair. The NJHS students and advisors will assist. Date TBD. Thank you, Hallie, Michelle and the NJHS!
   5. E.S. Author/Illustrator Visit: Maureen LaRocca gave an update. This event is in the planning stages, with Mrs. Eich’s assistance.
   6. M.S. Dodgeball is scheduled for January 12th @ 6:30. Grades 5/6 will be 6:30-7:30. Grades 7/8 will be 7:30-8:30. Karen Lee has volunteered to chair. Thank you, Karen!
   7. M.S. Grade 5 Bingo is January 26th @ 7:00 pm. Sue Oldring is chairing this event. Thank you, Sue!
   8. E.S Bingo: Bingo events will be held for each grade level (on different nights) as follows: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-4. Concessions will be sold. Prizes will be awarded. Sue Oldring gave a friendly reminder not to double book the Bingo set. Beth Haney, Heather Bencosme, and Michelle Fernandez graciously volunteered to co-chair these three E.S. Bingo events. Thank you, ladies!
3. *New Business:*
   1. M.S. & E.S. GaGa Ball Pits’ Surfaces: The new GaGa Ball Pits at the M.S. and E.S. are not being used because they are very muddy. We would like to purchase surfaces for the GaGa Ball pits so that they can be used regardless of weather conditions. It would be a one-time purchase of about $6,000 to provide appropriate permanent surfaces for the GaGa ball pits. The surfaces would be similar to the surface that is currently under the new swing set. Someone suggested extending the swing set surface and putting the GaGa Ball pit next to the swings.
   2. Purchase of a Class Set of Ukuleles: Mr. Montpetit spoke about this. Ms. Ghosio, the district’s music teacher, has requested funds to purchase a class set of 30 ukuleles. The cost is approximately $59 each. The budget to buy the ukuleles would be about $2,500. The funds will come out of the AMA account. The PTO membership will have a vote at the next meeting to approve the funding for the ukuleles.
   3. Popcorn Maker: Sue Oldring suggested purchasing a popcorn maker to sell popcorn for concessions at events. She will research machines and prices and report back to us.
   4. M.S. Visiting Speaker: Mr. Holl spoke about a visiting speaker and graphic novelist, George O’Connor, who did an interactive presentation for the sixth graders supporting the Greek Mythology Module. Student Activities paid for the cost of the speaker. It was such an enormous success with the students that Mr. Holl is requesting money from the PTO to fund additional visiting speakers for the other grade levels.

**Questions** **and/or**  **Comments**:

* Some members had questions about why certain events or special days are different across grade levels. Michelle Fernandez asked about having a Career Day. Melanie Adlah explained that the grade level teaching teams plan grade level activities to coincide with the curriculum (ie: Q & U get married, etc.) She also explained that the PTO sponsors one evening event per grade level. (ie: K-1 Milk & Cookies event, etc)
* The PTO closet really needs a good clean out. Lauren Crennan suggested more shelving might help. Sue Oldring said that the Recess Bins should be looked at and replenished.

**Miscellaneous:**

There being no further business, Sue Oldring motioned to adjourn and Heather Bencosme seconded the motion. The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School.