

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

February 8, 2023

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Middle School.

**PTO Board Attendees**: Co-President – Melissa Davis; Vice-President – Lauren Crennan; Corresponding Secretary – Maureen LaRocca; Treasurer – Patricia Specht

**PTO Guest Attendees:** The Middle School Principal, Mr. Holl, and the PTO Teacher Reps Mrs. Percoco and Mrs. Steuerwald were present. Please see PTO Attendance Sheet dated February 8, 2023 for the names of other meeting attendees.

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

**Minutes:** The January, 2023 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 Mrs. Steuerwald.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Patricia Specht read the Treasurer’s report. Melissa Davis motioned to approve the report. Maureen LaRocca seconded the motion. The following is a synopsis for January, 2023.

* JANUARY:
  1. Accounts’ Opening Balances (01/01/2023) are:
     1. Operating (Checking) Account: $13,293.07
     2. Savings Account: $47,007.34
     3. AMA Account: $38,318.22
  2. Account Activity:
     1. Payment for Amazon Prime subscription: -$14.99
     2. Payment for Intuit Quickbooks subscription: -$92.33
     3. Deposit of Dodgeball Proceeds: +$173.00
     4. Deposit of Bingo Proceeds: +$121.00
     5. Deposit of Turkey Trot proceeds: +$13,269.17
     6. Cash Box Requests for Dodgeball and Bingo for $520.00
     7. Payment for Spirit Wear: -$987.70
     8. Payment for Popcorn Machine purchase: -$319.20
     9. Refund Credit for Popcorn Machine Return: +$319.20
     10. Several Purchases of supplies for Sweetheart Dance: -$22.98, -$125.03, -$8.99,

-$24.95

* + 1. Several Reimbursements for Winter Wonderland supplies: -$68.52 & -$84.59
    2. Payment to Prestige for the Holiday Fair: -$8,993.85
    3. Reimbursement to Maureen LaRocca for PTO Membership drive pens: -$112.92
    4. Retirement Gifts for Miss Patti (custodian): -$217.20
    5. Purchase of Milk and Cookies Night supplies: -$27.36
    6. Purchase of batteries for Recess Toys: -$18.99
    7. Purchase of flowers for the E.S. Secretaries: -$36.29
  1. Accounts’ Closing Balances for January (01/31/2023) are:
     1. Operating (Checking) Account: $2,061.18
     2. Savings Account: $47,272.77
     3. AMA Account: $45,327.39

**Fundraisers/Events Updates:**

1. *Completed*:
   1. M.S. Grade 5 Bingo : was held on Thursday, January 26th @ 7:00 pm. Sue Oldring was the chairperson. This has been the first Bingo Night since the pandemic, and the event was very successful. 39 students attended.
   2. Popcorn Machine Purchase: Sue Oldring reported that popcorn at the Bingo Night was a big hit and the kids loved it! Sue Oldring suggested obtaining a Restaurant Depot membership for future purchases of this sort.
2. *Ongoing or Upcoming Business:*
   1. Purchase of New M.S. Bike Racks: Funding from AMA account was approved on 1/18/23. Thank you for your support!
   2. Purchase of M.S. & E.S. GaGa Ball Pits’ Surfaces: Funding from AMA account was approved on 1/18/23. Thank you for your support!
   3. Purchase of a Class Set of Ukuleles: Funding from AMA account was approved on 1/18/23. Thank you for your support!
   4. E.S. K-1 Milk & Cookies Night : This event was canceled for January 26th. New date TBD. Hallie Glick and Michelle Fernandez are co-chairs. They are looking at possibly March 2nd. Michelle Fernandez will email a “Volunteers Needed” blurb to Maureen LaRocca, which she will forward to the membership. The NJHS students and advisors will assist. Thank you, Hallie, Michelle and the NJHS!
   5. M.S. & E.S. Souper Bowl Food Drive: The Souper Bowl will be held the week of February 6th. Melanie Adlah and Melissa Davis are co-chairs. Thank you, Mel and Melissa! Please send in non-perishable food items, all of which will be donated to local food pantries. The Girl Scouts have volunteered to count the items each day. Thank you, Girl Scouts! There is a contest between the M.S. and the E.S. Whichever school brings in the most donated food items, will have possession of the Souper Bowl Trophy until next year! May the most charitable school win! There has been a noticeable decline in the amount of donations, perhaps due to the increase in the price of groceries.
   6. E.S. 3rd/4th Grade Sweetheart Dance: The Elementary School Sweetheart Dance for 3rd and 4th graders (and their accompanying adult) will be held on Thursday, February 9th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Tara Gassick is the chairperson. Thank you, Tara! Please RSVP using the QR code on the flyer that was sent home. Lauren reported that they have received at least 100 student RSVPs. Each student will be accompanied by a parent. Tara reported that they are all set for the event.
   7. M.S. Grade 6 Bingo: The 6th grade Bingo will be held on Thursday, February 9th @ 7:00 pm. Sue Oldring is chair. Thank you, Sue.
   8. E.S. Valentine’s Day Bake Sale: The Bake Sale will be held on Tuesday, February 14th during all lunch periods. Hope Kaufman is the chairperson. At the request of the Kindergarten teachers, there will be non-food items available for purchase. The Kindergarten teachers are concerned with the amount of sugar the little ones will be ingesting that day, since it is also Valentine’s Day, so they’ve requested that only non-food items be made available to the Kindergarten classes, with the exception of a free bag of popcorn for each Kindergartener. We will also be selling popcorn at this event to 1st through 4th graders, thanks to our new Popcorn Machine!
   9. M.S. Grade 7 Bingo: The 7th grade Bingo will be held on Thursday, February 16th @ 7:00 pm, Sue Oldring is chair. Thank you, Sue.
   10. M.S. Grade 6 Greek Olympics: The 6th grade Greek Olympics will be held on Friday, February 17th . Megan Butofsky is the chairperson for refreshments. Sue Oldring met with Megan and explained how to use the coffee maker and hot water pot. Sue reported that we are low on supplies and need the following: luncheon plates, plastic spoons, plastic knives, plastic cold beverage cups, and non-sugar sweeteners. Melissa said that the Board will take care of getting these items. Sue suggested that we inventory the PTO closet to see what we have and what we need for future events.
   11. E.S. Bingo Nights: Kindergarten is on 3/7/23, Grades 1/2 is on 3/14/23, and Grades 3/4 is on 3/28/23. Concessions will be sold, including popcorn. Prizes will be awarded. The Co-Chairpersons are Beth Haney, Heather Bencosme, and Michelle Fernandez. Thank you, ladies! Volunteers are needed!
   12. M.S. Grade 8 Bingo: Thursday, March 9th @ 7:00 pm, Sue Oldring is chair.
   13. E.S. Poet School Visit: Maureen LaRocca spoke about this. Our visiting author is Darren Sardelli, a local poet who grew up in Smithtown. He is relatable and engaging. His website is [www.laughalotpoetry.com](http://www.laughalotpoetry.com). The proposal is for 2 assemblies (K-2nd grades & 3rd-4th grades) plus 3 interactive workshops (K-1st grade; 2nd-3rd grade; & 4th grade). The cost for the 2 assemblies plus 3 workshops is $1,650. The cost for just the 2 assemblies is $1,100. If approved at the next PTO meeting on March 15th, the funding would come out of the AMA account. We are looking at possible dates toward the end of March. Please attend the next PTO meeting on March 15th to vote for this wonderful experience for our kids. Thank you for your support.
   14. Purchase of a Rolling Cart: Sue Oldring requested that we purchase a rolling cart to store the new Popcorn Machine.
   15. Box Tops For Education App: Maureen LaRocca explained an easy way to raise money for the PTO through BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION. Supporters can scan grocery receipts into their Box Tops for Education app and the PTO will get 10 cents for every eligible product that is scanned. Maureen will post more information on the PTO Facebook page.
3. New Business:
   1. M.S. St. Patrick’s Day Bake Sale & Cupcake Wars: Sue Oldring will chair. Popcorn will be sold!
   2. 7th Grade Frost Valley Breakfast: will be on Wednesday, 3/22/23. Sue Oldring & Trish Specht will co-chair. Melissa Davis will order the bagels.
   3. Second Grade Assembly: will be on Tuesday, 4/25/23 at 7:00 pm. Jester Jim will perform. More information is forthcoming.
   4. Purchase of New Rolling Carts: Sue Oldring suggested we purchase a new rolling cart for each school. She has researched them and found good quality Rubbermaid carts for $150 each.
   5. 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip Grab n’ Go Breakfast: The 8th graders will be leaving for their Washington DC trip on Tuesday, April 4th. Melissa Davis will order the bagels.

**Questions and/or Comments:**

* Lifetouch Class Photos: Lorraine Baierwalter shared that she and other parents are upset that class photos have been missing from their school portraits’ packages. Parents have tried call customer service to have it remedied, but have encountered difficulties. The Board will make a Facebook post and send out an email to the membership explaining how to contact Lifetouch’s customer service in order to get their missing class photos.
* Back-To-School Supplies: Noelle Grogan made a suggestion that the PTO purchase back-to-school supplies in bulk, in order to get wholesale prices. Perhaps we could do this as a fundraiser.
* P.S. I Love You Day: Hope Kaufman spoke about this. P.S. I Love You Day is designed to discourage bullying and encourage more empathy, kindness, inclusion and compassion in our students. Student discussions and activities would be grade-level appropriate. Perhaps it could be incorporated into the curriculum as well, like making class posters or artwork, etc. It seems that Mrs. Emin showed the students a video and gave them an activity to do. Hope will speak with Mrs. Emin about how the PTO can be more involved next year to support this initiative.
* Committees: Sue Oldring mentioned that we would need to start nominations soon for a Budget Committee and a By-Laws Committee. At least one Board member must be on each committee, along with general members. Melissa Davis and Michelle Fernandez volunteered to be committee members.
* Camp Paquatuck Scholarship: Hope Kaufman spoke about this. She asked the PTO to sponsor a special needs student from our school district to attend summer camp at Camp Paquatuck. There would be a blind application process, as in we would ask the personnel at the camp to review the applications and choose the student who would receive the scholarship funded by the PTO.
* **Miscellaneous:** There being no further business, Sue Oldring motioned to adjourn and Mrs. Percoco seconded the motion. The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm. The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School.