

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

May 31, 2023

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Elementary School.

**PTO Board Attendees**: Co-Presidents – Melissa Davis & Melanie Adlah; Corresponding Secretary – Maureen LaRocca; Treasurer – Patricia Specht

**PTO Guest Attendees:** The Elementary School Principal, Mr. Schneyer, and the PTO Teacher Rep, Mrs. Percoco, were present. Please see PTO Attendance Sheet dated May 31, 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 March and April 2023 Meeting Minutes were dispensed, and members reviewed them. The Minutes are also available online at <https://empto.org>. Melanie Adlah apologized for the March Minutes being in error. A motion to approve the revised March 2023 minutes was made by Tom Frey and seconded by Lorraine Baierwalter. A motion to approve the April 2023 minutes was made by Michelle Fernandez and seconded by Tom Frey.

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

**Fundraisers/Events Updates:**

1. *Completed*:
   1. Turn off the T.V. Week was held during Week of May 1st. Melissa Davis was the chairperson, assisted by Nurse Romano. Children who signed contracts to turn off their televisions, and do more physical activity and/or reading, received raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize. Winners received a $5.00 gift card to Ultimate Ice Cream.
   2. Teacher Appreciation Week was the week of May 8 and was chaired by Hope Kaufman and Melissa Davis. They did an awesome job and got great feedback from teachers who said it was spectacular and how much they enjoyed it. Mrs. Percoco said it was wonderful, so much food, and delicious. Each day had different themes, such as “Stay afloat until June” (inflatable drink floaties, drinks, and snacks), “You’re all that and a bag of chips,” “You’re on a Roll” (breakfast coffee, rolls, and bagels), “You’re the best teachers in the world,” (catered lunch with food items from a variety of cultures). Thank you to Hope, Melissa, and all of the businesses that donated or discounted food, especially Lucharito’s, Anton’s Pizzeria, Carlo’s Pizza, Greek Bites, Good Bickle, Lin’s Kitchen, Tony’s Sushi, and the Moriches Bay Deli!
   3. Kindergarten Orientation: was on May 24th. The PTO presented each Kindergartener with an Orientation “Class of 2036” T-shirt. Blue Orientation Folders were designed with a custom East Moriches Schools logo and ordered for the Kindergarten screening.
   4. NJHS Induction Ceremony and Hospitality Reception was on May 17th . The PTO honored the National Junior Honor Society inductees with refreshments. Melissa Davis chaired this event. It went very well and families were very appreciative.
   5. Mother’s Day Plant Sale was chaired by Stacy Bartholomew on May 11-12. Thank you to all of the volunteers!
   6. BMX Stunt Show and Concessions was May 11th. The district held a BMX event and the PTO Board sold concessions.
   7. Disability Awareness “Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes”: Hope Kaufman spoke about this. Her initiative was called “Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes.” Students received a paper sneaker to decorate and write about how they can show empathy to others, treat others with kindness, and make others feel included. The slogan was “Put Yourself in Other People’s Shoes.” Participating families were also be invited to donate $1.00 or more for the Nassau Suffolk Autism Society of America.
2. Ongoing or upcoming business:
   1. M.S. Bike Racks: The funding for the Bike Racks will come from the AMA account. There has been a delay in obtaining the bike racks due to exorbitant shipping costs. More to follow.
   2. M.S. & E.S. GaGa Ball Pits’ Surfaces: The funding for the Gaga Ball Pits’ surfaces will come from the AMA account. We are still in the process of obtaining appropriate surface options for the GaGa Ball pits.
   3. M S. Fun-Fair will be held on June 2nd . Melissa spoke about this event. There will be ice pops, waters, music, Pitch Burst, inflatable soccer darts, double lane water slide and slip and slide.
   4. K-4 Yearbook: Yearbooks are in. Kelly Palomo is chairing and doing a fantastic job. Thanks, Kelly!
   5. “Duct Tape the Principals to the Wall” Fundraiser: Melissa Davis spoke about this initiative. This event is still in the planning stages. One of the MS clubs recently hosted a similar event, so we are considering doing it just for the ES or perhaps in September. More information is forthcoming.
   6. High School Senior Scholarships (ESM, WHB, CMO): Trish coordinated the scholarships. Thank you, Trish!
   7. 8th Grade Scholarship: Trish is working on coordinating this with Mr. Holl.
   8. Field Day T-Shirts: Thanks so much to Kerri Kleine for ordering the Field Day T-shirts for both schools! Trish Specht organized them by classes. Melissa and Trish delivered the shirts to the classroom teachers.
3. New Business:
   1. Budget Committee Presentation of the Proposed 2023-2024 PTO Budget: The Budget committee consisted of: Trish Specht, Sue Oldring, Kerri Tufano, Mrs. Percoco, and Heather Bencosme. Trish spoke about the proposed budget. She said 2 additional fundraisers were added to sustain the budget needed for events the PTO sponsors. Trish also said that each event’s budget line was raised by $50 due to inflation. Events that are no longer being run were removed from the budget.
   2. ByLaws Committee Presentation of the Proposed ByLaws Revision: The ByLaws Committee consisted of: Hope Kaufman, Maureen LaRocca, Michelle Fernandez, Danielle Kennedy and Mr. Holl. Hope spoke about the revision process. She noted that Article V, Election of Officers, has been the most frequently revised over the years. The committee researched bylaws from other PTO organizations and PTO Today. Some of the proposed revisions include defining an active member, and a code of conduct. Hope also suggested inviting informational speakers, such as the school psychologist, to speak on parenting issues, as per bylaws.
   3. 8th grade “I Survived” T-shirts were distributed.
   4. 8th grade Dance is June 9, Kim Ranagan is chair.
   5. ES Fun Fair is June 16. Melissa Davis is chairperson. The ES sign-ups will be out soon and we will need volunteers. The PTO is sponsoring fun inflatables, Pitch Burst, and a Mister Softee ice cream truck. Different colored tickets will be given to children with allergies. The Pre-K classes will enjoy the Fun Fair at 2:30 with their parents. The PTO will provide ices for the Pre-K classes.
   6. 4th grade Yearbook Signing Bagel Breakfast is June 20 at 8:30 am. Kelly Palomo is chair. The balloon arch will be reused the next day for the 4th grade moving up ceremony and 8th grade graduation.
   7. 4th grade Moving Up Ceremony is June 21 at 10:00 am. Trish Specht will chair. Melissa will help serve. We will need more volunteers. Michelle Fernandez and Hope Kaufman volunteered to help. There will be balloon towers on either side of the stage and a balloon arch. There will be a slide show of Elementary school memories with music.
   8. 8th grade Graduation is June 21st. Lauren Crennan and Trish Specht are co-chairs.
   9. ES Sensory Walk Hallway initiative: Hope Kaufman spoke about this. Hope has encountered some challenges in getting this going. She has been consulting with the Occupational Therapy and special education teachers about the design. It’s intended for all students, not just kids with special needs. The pricing for the floor and wall pathway they chose is $1320. It will require regular maintenance. The custodians will apply permanent lacquer to the pathway. It will be placed in the hallway outside of the gymnasium and used for OT, PT and classroom brain breaks. The membership will vote at the next meeting to approve the project. However, the treasurer stated that there aren’t funds allocated in the budget for this, and it will have to be 100% self-funded by fundraisers specific to this initiative.
4. Questions and/or Comments:
   1. Karen Lee commented that the school won a 32” flat screen television set because we signed up so early this year for the Holiday Fair. Perhaps we can use this as a raffle item at Open House Night and use the funds to help pay for the Sensory Walk.
   2. It was suggested that we also hold a 50/50 raffle during Open House as a fundraiser.

There being no further business, Tom Frey motioned to adjourn, and Melanie Adlah seconded the motion. The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School