

Minutes of the East Moriches PTO Meeting

December 11, 2024

A meeting of the East Moriches PTO was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the East Moriches Middle School.

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

**PTO Guest Attendees:** Ms. Pesce, Middle School Principal, was present; as well as PTO Teacher Rep Mrs. Percoco.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 pm. Lauren Otto welcomed everyone. Babysitting was provided by the NJHS.

**Minutes:** The November 2024 Meeting Minutes were dispensed, and members reviewed them. The Minutes are also available online at <https://empto.org>. A motion to approve the November 2024 minutes was made by Mrs. Percoco and seconded by Ms. Pesce.

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

**Events/Fundraisers Updates:**

1. **Completed**:
	1. **E.S. K-1 Milk and Cookies Event:** 11/14; Alexis Heinz was the chairperson. Mrs. Percoco was the advisor. The purpose of this event is to promote the love of reading between parent and child. Alexis said the event went well and stayed within budget. She suggested that next year, the readers should start reading simultaneously to minimize distractions. Students were given little goodie bags with teddy bears and a bookmark. The NJHS went beyond this year and made book themed centerpieces for each table that were a huge hit! 11 teachers volunteered to be guest readers. Thank you to the teachers and NJHS students for helping to make this event a huge success.
	2. **M.S. Spelling Bee:** 11/19 @ 7 pm; Maureen LaRocca was the chairperson. There were 2 winners from each individual class’ spelling bee. Those students represented their grade level in the school-wide spelling bee. There were trophies given to the first, second and third place winners of each grade and a trophy given to the overall school winner. Other participants received a small Spelling Bee lapel pin. Refreshments were provided for the spelling bee participants and their families.
	3. **Believe Fundraiser (Distribution):** 9/20 through 10/9; Trish Specht. It was very successful. We had approximately $15,000 in sales. The PTO received 40% of sales as a fundraiser, which was $5,952 in profit. Most fundraising items have been distributed. There are a few left that need to be picked up, including frozen foods. Bags are too bulky to send home with students.
	4. **E.S. Magical Winter Wonderland:** was held on 12/5. Tina Quaglino and Caitlin Giorgio were chairpersons. Santa and Mrs. Claus were there, as well as Mickey Mouse for photo ops. The chairpersons were dissatisfied with the Santa used this year. There was a Gingerbread House Contest. A registration fee for the contest was collected; the fee was dependent upon the size of the gingerbread house. The Gingerbread House contest had low participation. Students went home with “Snowman Soup” goodie bags. There were Basket Raffles, as well, and profited us $200. The event stayed under budget by $65. Karen Lee concurrently ran the E.S. Holiday Gift Fair in the school lobby.
	5. **E.S. Holiday Gift Fair:** 12/5 & 12/6. Karen Lee & Olivia Ruddick. The E.S Holiday Fair went well and sold about $7,300 in items.
2. **Ongoing or Upcoming Business:**
	1. **E.S. Author Event:** Jocelyn Kaleita is chairperson. Renee Smith, author of Hugo the Impossible Thing, will visit the Elementary School on 12/19 during the school day. She will conduct a Reading/Writing workshop as well as a show and tell of her creative process for writing books. Students will be able to purchase autographed books (60 total). This event was rescheduled from its original November date due to unforeseen circumstances.
	2. **M.S. Holiday Gift Fair:** 12/12 & 12/13. Karen Lee & Olivia Ruddick.
	3. **E.S. Scholastic Book Fair 2025:** Alexis Heinz has volunteered to chair the Elementary School Book Fair next year.
3. **New Business:**
	1. **M.S. Dodgeball Night:** 1/23. Maureen LaRocca (planning chair). Dodgeball winners receive medals and prizes. Tina Balzano volunteered to chair concessions.
	2. **Bingo Nights:**
		1. We do not yet have chairpersons for 3rd/4th grades Bingo on January 9 or for 7th/8th grades Bingo on January 16. If we don’t find chairpersons for these events, they will have to be postponed and may eventually be canceled.
		2. Kindergarten Bingo: Lori Barraud & Alexis Heinz have volunteered to chair.
		3. 1st/2nd Grades Bingo: Tina Quaglino is chairing
		4. 5th/6th grades: Lori Barraud is chairperson
4. **Questions and/or Comments:** Please keep comments or questions to under 3 minutes.
	1. **GOAT USA Spiritwear Fundraiser:** Maureen received a text from a member about a fundraising idea. The GOAT USA clothing company will make custom East Moriches GOAT USA shirts for fundraising. Lauren is going to look into it and see what it entails.

There being no further business, Mrs. Percoco motioned to adjourn, and Tina Balzano seconded the motion. The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

The next P.T.O. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Elementary School.