

## New Emerson PTO Meeting Notes

New Emerson Elementary Library  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

**In Attendance:** Kathy Weidner, Cyleene Gollob, Kelly Clingman, Miriam Rodriguez, Terry Schmalz, Stacey Kristy, Ellie Nisly, Molly Moyer, Carol Serrano, Katie Mathis, Miranda Bailey, Sarah Weber

### 1. Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 4:15pm.

### 2. Accountability/School Update (Terry Schmalz)

- Terry provided an update on New Emerson's Unified Improvement Goals for 2017-2018, which are:
  - To increase student growth in math
  - To increase student growth in reading
- Math
  - New Emerson learners are high achievers – consistently score high, so focus is on growth (compares 3<sup>rd</sup> vs. 4<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> vs. 5<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> vs. 6<sup>th</sup>)
  - Growth in Math
    - Last year, all students screened for math using AVMR – measures growth on concepts
    - Implement Boot Camp – target areas, boost growth
  - Currently piloting 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Investigations and will provide feedback – if this is something the teachers want to use, will ask PTO for funding to buy new curriculum
  - Dreambox continues to be utilized as a tool with individualized focus/progression
    - Kindergarteners will be starting in-class, then from home
  - Continue to infuse growth mindset as a district goal, as well as social/emotional awareness
- Reading
  - Again, New Emerson learners are high achievers – consistently score high, so focus is on growth
  - Lexia Core 5 program (five components of reading) is District focus
    - Roxanne is New Emerson's Lexia paraprofessional – able to monitor and help grow learners' reading by communicating with teachers regarding progress
    - If fruitful, will see if we can have Roxanne at New Emerson next year (state of CO resource)
  - Learners in K, 1, 2 and 3 are monitored every two weeks on Dibels protocol
- Performance-based learning – continue to study the brain, code of collaboration
  - Gradual release of responsibilities from teachers to learners
- Fridays – working with math content specialist

### 3. Harvest Party

- Huge thank you to all who volunteered – a great time was had by all!

### 4. 501(c)3 Status Update (Kathy)

- Michael Kuzminski is a parent attorney who continues to help us navigate through this process – Miranda, Kathy, Katie and Cy met with him October 18<sup>th</sup>

- Filed for Articles of Incorporation and looking into getting a new EIN
- Discussed the benefits of gaining 501(c)3 status – access to bigger dollar grants, tax deductibility, etc.

#### 5. Pottery & Pizza Night (Kelly Clingman)

- Will be held Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm in the gym
- Admission is \$10/person, which includes an ornament and a slice of pizza
- Reminder that this is not a drop-off your kids event
- Reminder stickers will be given to teachers for kids on Thursday
- Angelo's will handle the collection of money and write us a check after the fact, which is consistent with last year. They will be able to take credit cards for payment. There was some discussion around whether or not Angelo's is charging tax.
- Terry will ask Steve to put down the tables, Angelo's staff will arrive ~2:30 on Thursday
- There was discussion about using a single point of entrance in order to avoid confusion/congestion

#### 6. Family Movie Nights

- Currently scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> (Miranda to clarify the November date)

#### 7. Caring Kids (Cyleene)

- Caring Kids is a community service activity for kids and parents to get involved in the enrichment of our community.
- Group of students and parents raked the yard of one of New Emerson's volunteers on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a great group effort and rewarding for all – filled 16+ bags!
- Service activities typically occur on Fridays.
- Planning to do cookie decorating and donations to Catholic Outreach in December. More information to come – stay tuned.
- Jess King is the Caring Kids contact.

#### 8. Impact of Election Results

- New Emerson is expecting to get a new light pole in the parking lot, as well as new windows and blinds.
- Each teacher will be getting a laptop for themselves, plus five laptops for students with a cart and software.
- Depending on whether there is any left-over money, could possibly get new flooring in the Math & Science Center space – to be determined.
- Timing is unknown.

#### 9. Miscellaneous Items (various)

- This year's holiday program is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> (Kelly).
- Alpine Bank Christmas party – will most likely not do it this year, but Katie will follow-up.
- Future use of Math & Science Center space (Terry)
  - Will meet in January with Math & Science Center contacts to find out who is staying and what their space needs are – science kit building will continue to be done in this space for whole district.
  - The science classroom will stay; whether or not Kayla will stay is unclear at this point.

- New Emerson's current needs for the space are for the Libratory, Markerspace, and health space for Michele to treat sick kids.
- Pancake Breakfast – will be held sometime in February or March. The money earned from last year's event went towards field trips (Molly).
  - Should plan to do the same with this year's proceeds since student will have to travel to the new Math & Science Center on CMU's campus.
- The question was raised as to whether the Libratory will need an Aquos board – will need to table for now and revisit later.
- Lunch Lizard will only be serving Thanksgiving lunch this Thursday, with no option for PB&J sandwiches.

#### **10. Closing**

- Next meeting is December 19<sup>th</sup>
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm

PTO minutes prepared by: Cyleene Gollob