

## New Emerson PTO Meeting Notes

New Emerson Elementary Library

Tuesday, January 19, 2018

In attendance: Jamie Lewis, Stacey Kristy, Sasha Jenkins, Sarah Miller, Kathy Weidner, Terry Schmalz, Miranda Bailey

### **1. Welcome**

- Meeting Called to Order at 4:15 pm

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

- Terry invited the New Emerson community to come to the School Board meeting at R5 High School on Jan. 23 at 6pm when the school receives the John Irwin Award.
- She also gave an accountability report regarding campus academic goals. She said the staff is currently working on math goals and growth. K-2 will be administered screenings this month as grades 3-5 were before the Winter Break. "We look at what area do they need help with, or what they are really high in, and how we can support these needs," Schmalz said. "We hope we can meet growth goals at 50 percent or higher."
- Terry also discussed the recent formation of a project-based learning "District Design Challenge Team." The group of fifth graders, led by fifth grader teacher Ms. Aubrey has been tasked with designing a solution to a problem that affects the New Emerson community. The team meets once a month at R-5 High School.

### **3. Hopes for Math & Science Center Space (Terry Schmalz)**

- The space will belong to New Emerson, not another school. New Emerson will still most likely share some of this space (or one of the modular buildings) with the Math and Science Center. They want to maintain the science STEAM lab classroom on our campus and a modular building for building district science kits. We have a collaborative relationship with them since they teach our learners weekly in the STEAM lab.
- The fifth grade design team is addressing facility needs as the Math and Science center prepares to vacate. This team will be seeking feedback from parents and students as to how we should use the space and will have a plan that is student-centered.
- We did find out that in the district reorganization we will be under the "Director of Innovation" which will be an "awesome step for our school."
- We are still not certain exactly what or if the district can pay for anything as we move to the vacated space after the Math & Science center leave – which is why we are trying to actively fundraise for this transition. There is a chance the district will be paying for new flooring, paint and Wi-Fi with leftover funding from the bond initiative. We should know more on this at the next meeting.

### **4. 501c3 (Miranda Bailey)**

- Katie Mathis let me know that we are still in communication with the IRS regarding our Non-Profit status, and we are still waiting to hear more about getting our status changed. We will hopefully know more next month.

### **5. Budget (Kathy Weidner )**

- We currently have \$9518.06 in our account. We want to help with the Math & Science

Center space renovations and our new Library/Makerspace if need be. We will wait to hear more on what will be needed for the vacated space next month.

## **6. Fundraising & Upcoming Events (Kathy Weidner/Terry Schmalz )**

- Thurs., Feb. 8 is "I Love to Read" Night. The event, which celebrates reading and gives a free book to every student, will begin at 6pm in the gym. Parents are invited to bring a book theme-related snack to share. We (the PTO) will also provide gift cards to give in a drawing at the event. We are in need of prizes for the drawing. In past years, parents have donated bicycles and refurbished Kindles. If there are any parents or community members who have something they could donate for the drawing, please let Terry or Cherie in the office know.

- Fundraising continues. Our efforts this year have included an application to the Bacon Foundation to help fund an expanded Makerspace for next year. We will also check with Chipotle about continuing our fundraisers with them.

- We will not be walking in the parade this year, but we are still in need of CAKES or COOKIES to be given to the Lions Club Carnival on Feb. 17 as a thank you for the generous laptop cart they funded last year. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside classrooms next week.

- The next Family Movie Night is Thursday, March 1 at 6pm in the gym. Donations will be accepted. The fourth grade class will be providing snacks and drinks as a fundraiser for their fifth grade class. Bring a comfy chair, and money for snacks!

- The Annual New Emerson Pancake Breakfast will be April 7<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 11am, and the last Family Movie Night of the Year will be April 19.

## **7. Caring Kids – Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at Kids Aid (Terry)**

Our service group is in need of food items for the Kids-Aid initiative. These donations could include Fruit cups, granola bars, ramen noodles, peanut butter, mac and cheese – basically all food items easy for kids to eat/cook at home.

## **8. Closing**

- Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 20
- The meeting was adjourned at 5pm

PTO Minutes prepared by Miranda Bailey in Cyleene's absence.