

ESPO Meeting Notes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

1. **Welcome Remarks and Introductions:** Elizabeth Caswell

2. **Emerson Auction:** Lorna Hildebrandt
 - The Emerson Auction will be held on Friday, March 10 at Barton Hills Country Club. The theme is: World of Possibilities, coordinating with the upcoming Passport to the World event. Invitations will be coming out soon.
 - Lorna shared that all Auction leadership positions have been filled. She thanked the leadership team and volunteers! All committees are up and running.
 - Kicking off acquisition work. Deadline to sponsor a teacher is Friday, January 20. The advertising deadline is February 6. Information will be coming soon about other ways to donate.
 - Very fun event, everyone encouraged to attend. Please ask Lorna or anyone on the leadership team if you have questions.

3. **Coordinating Committee Reports**
 - a. **Budget Review:** Elizabeth Caswell for Annie Bruienne
ESPO has two primary sources of income 1) dues and 2) pizza lunch. Our income allows ESPO to invest in the school in whatever way the school needs. Investments range from small (Lost and Found improvements) to large (\$100,000 to the Arts and Innovation Center over 5 years). Our budget also covers the expenses for events such as Halloween and Field Day. One major new ESPO expense is the Back to School picnic, which is free to all families and faculty. This is a great event for families and staff, but it is expensive. Our dues don't cover all of our expenses.
 - b. **2017-2018 Dues, Enrichment and Grants:** Elizabeth Caswell
 - i. *Dues:* Coordinating Committee voted to increase dues to \$35 per family (moderate increase). Even with this increase in dues we will still be dipping into pizza income to pay for events.
 - ii. *Enrichment:* We have set Enrichment money aside for special speakers and events. Last year we paid for performances by Wild Swan Theatre at Emerson, such as "Rosie the Riveter." We are reviewing requests for this year.
 - iii. *Grants:* We invited teachers to apply for grants for their classrooms. ESPO Coordinating Committee and Emerson Administration reviewed the grant requests from teachers. Teachers had creative ways of enhancing their curriculum. \$1,500 will be divided among three recipients. We will share the details in March.
 - c. **Pizza Lunch:** Diana Rooks, Maria Bichakjian

- i. Diana: We are in the process of preparing orders for second semester. Please email any order changes to pizzalunch@emerson-school.org before January 22, 2017. If you do not have any changes to your child's order, no action is required.
- ii. Maria: Please come and volunteer at an upcoming pizza lunch. We have lots of spots available for second semester. Very fun and easy way to volunteer.

d. Lost and Found

- i. We are looking at a better way of handling Lost and Found. Anja is leading a team of volunteers and collaborating with school staff on a plan. The new system will have racks and bins that can be moved when necessary.
- ii. Need a parent volunteer to help with ESPO marketing and communications. Getting ready to do a mid-year newsletter to educate people about ESPO. Also have bulletin board space that we would like to use for ESPO communication. Kelly Richardson volunteered to help with communications. Thanks Kelly!

4. Event Chair Reports

- a. **Book Fair:** Katherine Arst and Kristin Loszewski
The Book Fair was held on November 13 at Nicola's Books. It was a wonderful school event. We made over \$2,500 that will go to the school library. Linda will use this money to purchase books at a discounted price from Nicola's. ESPO covers the event expenses.
- b. **Bake Sale:** Maria Bichakjian and Jeanne Cooper
The Bake Sale made \$2,200, which was a little less than last year. The money raised goes to the Technology Department and was used to purchase iPad minis for the Learning Support Program. Maria thanked everyone for their donations and volunteering.
- c. **Passport to the World:** Christine Kim
Passport to the World is coming up on April 21. This is an event that we hold every three years. It is a very fun evening. The gym is filled with booths representing different countries. Parents, teachers, and students are involved. The evening includes food, entertainment and speakers representing different countries. We will be looking for volunteers to sponsor booths and help in other ways.

5. Committee Chair Reports

- a. **Emerson Cares:** Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson
 - i. Abbie shared an update on Jill Nolan, 1st grade teacher. Jill is doing better and gaining strength. She still appreciates any notes, cards or drawings from kids. Please leave any items for Jill in the school office.
 - ii. Emerson Cares also supports our school community through providing welcome gifts, retirement gifts, and baby gifts.

b. Box Tops:

We are in need of a new Box Top chair. This is a great volunteer opportunity. It is not a difficult job and can easily be done at home.

6. New Business

a. Updates from John Huber, Head of School:

- i. Christy Loewen, Emerson's new Lower School Office Manager, officially started working on January 18. John asked families to please stop by and welcome Christy to Emerson.
- ii. Middle school teacher Lesley Littman is currently out on maternity leave.
- iii. ESPO meeting speaker in March will be our own Carrie Berkley, School Counselor. She gave a wonderful talk last year.
- iv. John thanked everyone who participated in the calendar survey. The survey had 180 respondents and provided lots of good feedback. Another survey on bus transportation will be coming out soon. We are considering the possibility of having privatized bus service. John will be back to us with updates soon.

b. Question regarding Teacher Appreciation:

This event is held in the spring. The main activity is a big lunch for the teachers. ESPO also gives teachers and the school a gift (based on the school's input on what they would like). We will be reaching out to families later in the spring for help.

ESPO Guest Speaker: Dr. Lauer

John Huber introduced our speaker, Dr. Roger Lauer. Dr. Lauer is the Director of the Center for Neuropsychology, Learning and Development in Ann Arbor. John shared some of Dr. Lauer's many educational and professional credentials. Dr. Lauer spoke at an ESPO meeting last year and was kind enough to return. Dr. Lauer and Emerson School have an excellent partnership, with a common goal of best supporting our students.

The topic of Dr. Lauer's talk was: *Raising Confident Sons: So Many Theories, So Little Time*. In brief, Dr. Lauer's talk included discussion of gender identity, and the influences of socialization and stereotypes on boys' behavior. Dr. Lauer stressed the importance of supporting our kids—acceptance and inclusion are key. Dr. Lauer also discussed how to support boys at school and home, including helping boys develop emotional literacy.

Dr. Lauer's entire PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from his website: cnld.org. To download: click on the Services tab, then Lectures & Workshops. The lecture is listed under Past Events. The password is BOYS!

The next ESPO meeting will be held on March 21, 2017.