



ESPO Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

1. Welcome: Lisa Ranzini & Terry Chang

2. Guest Speaker & Emerson parent Dr. Cindy Leung

Dr. Cindy Leung is an Assistant Professor in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Her research focuses on diet and health disparities in children and other vulnerable populations and she teaches graduate courses on Nutrition and Public Health, and Food Policy and Programs. For the past 5 years, Cindy has also taught a course on Maternal and Child Nutrition at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She has a MPH from UC Berkeley and a Doctor of Science degree from Harvard University.

3. Coordinating Committee Reports

a. Budget Review: Cindy Woo

Cindy to give a brief budget update. Half of the Pizza Lunch revenue has been received and we are projecting approximately \$1000 budget surplus.

b. Pizza Lunch: Diana Rooks, Maria Bichakjian

Diana will be stepping away from Pizza Ordering at the conclusion of the current academic year and is looking for some to fill her position. She is willing to work with any interested volunteers. The busiest times for pizza ordering are September and January, but the position requires about an hour of week each week to make sure the orders are properly placed.

C. Academic Grant Requests

In January the Coordinating Committee reviews academic grant requests proposed by faculty or staff. The purpose of ESPO grants is to support and enhance academic, extracurricular, and social experiences for Emerson students. Grants may be used to bring resources to the classroom, acquire special materials, or provide unique experiences related to the curriculum and overall school experience. All teachers, staff, and student organizations in the community may apply for grants. Eight grant requests were evaluated by the ESPO Coordinating Committee, following much discussion the committee agreed to partially fund three of the eight requests that were made, using the entire amount allotted in this year's budget.

Laura Noble

amount requested \$576.95 amount funded \$400.00

Grant Proposal: This money would be used to purchase 14 sets of diverse and inclusive novels. We would like to order 5 copies of each novel. This would provide our students the opportunity to learn about other cultures, in a small group setting, with intentional conversations

Rebecca Wancier

amount requested: \$600-\$800 amount funded \$400.00

Grant Proposal: I would like to build a classroom library of books for my students to use for a large research project that we do every year. The project is focused on plate tectonics and the associated geological hazards (earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes). Students design an essential question around these topics, then conduct research, analyze information, and communicate their learning at Emerson's middle school science exhibition. This project represents 10 weeks of classroom instruction/curriculum for the 7th grade.

Monica Scott (Academic Support)

amount requested: \$2000 amount funded \$700

Grant Proposal: We are seeking ESPO's support to cover the cost of the assessment and curriculum kits and for future materials needed to support our growing population of English language learners. Our school population has experienced growth in diversity, particularly in students who speak more than one language. We love the rich background experiences our students can share with one another, and bilingualism offers special and unique insight into the world in which we live.

4. Event Chair Reports

- a. **Teacher Conference Dinners:** Ilma Gagnon & Sasha Kelly (October 16, 2019)
The Conference Dinner was a great success, with a lot of different menu items for faculty and staff to choose from and we used compostable products. We will host another Teacher Conference Dinner March 25, 2020. Please mark your calendars and look for Sign-up genius to be forthcoming.
- b. **Book Fair:** Patty Petrowski (November 17, 2019)
Moving the Book Fair back to November proved to be a success! We earned \$2659.65 that stays on credit at Nicola's for Linda to use towards purchases and speakers for Emerson School. A big thank you to all who volunteered, performed, or supported the Book Fair, especially Linda, who's dedication and hard work is an inspiration to us all.
- c. **Bake Sale:** Cindy Kulkarni & Sasha Kelly (November 26, 2019)
This year the annual ESPO Bake Sale raised \$3,651.00! That is an increase of over \$400 from last year's total. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made purchases! The proceeds benefiting both the Lower School Quest program and supplying financial support for the Middle School to be able to purchase a 3D printer.

d. **Teacher Treats:** Shawn Pelak (February 19, 2020)
The morning of Wednesday, February 19, 202 the Faculty & Staff Lounge was beautified before the teachers arrived and stocked with flowers, coffee, tea, fresh fruit and individually wrapped Zingerman's brownie bites and accompanied by a note that read "Thank you and enjoy! Emerson School Parent Organization." In the days that followed each teacher received a handwritten Thank You note from an Emerson Parent.

e. **Passport:** Shawn Pelak (Friday, April 17, 2020)
Passport to the World will take place on Friday, April 17, 2020 from 5:00-8:00pm. We will travel the world through the eyes of our peers - learning about their heritage, enjoying entertainment, participating in activities and sampling international cuisine. The focal point of the evening will be visiting the tabletop displays highlighting countries and cultures, with families serving as ambassadors. Children will be provided with a passport for use during their travels. Every family has a story to share. Please consider sharing yours. There are many ways to be a part of this wonderful event - create a display (on your own or with others), lend a traditional garment to be displayed, prepare food to share, provide entertainment or some combination of the aforementioned.

f. **Teacher Appreciation Lunch:** Ali Sly (May 5, 2020)
To honor our extraordinary Emerson faculty and staff, we are planning a Farmers Market themed luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Day. We will be requesting you to donate your favorite homemade or store bought dishes, as well as volunteer to cover classroom time so that faculty will have a chance to enjoy the luncheon. Please look for Sign-Up Genius to be forthcoming. If you would like to learn more or volunteer your time please contact Ali Sly.

7. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Emerson Cares: Lisa Ranzini & Terry Chang
Emerson Cares acts as a liaison for Emerson families and staff for major lifetime events.
- b. Green & Anti-idling: Anja Lehmann
We are continuing with the Recycle, Reduce & Reuse initiatives from the Evergreen certification for our school. Thanks to many Emerson families we continue to receive donations of compostable plates to be used on Pizza Lunch Fridays.
- c. Box Tops: Sasha Kelly
There will be submissions on 3/2, so please bring box tops in. Additionally, you can download an app that can send the value of the box tops used directly to the school.

8. Auction: Lorna Hildebrandt & Kelly Foy (Friday, March 13, 2020)

This year's auction will be held at The Valley at Frutig Farms at 6 o'clock on Friday, March 13, 2020. Come dressed in your Barn Chic and enjoy a glass of champagne or an old fashioned from the open bar while perusing the silent auction and wine pull. On the lower level, dine with friends in the vintage barn followed by a spectacular and entertaining Live Auction with all proceeds going to support Emerson School.

9. New Business

a. Formation of a Wellness Initiative Committee

In January the ESPO Coordinating Committee approved a Wellness Initiative driven by Emerson parents as to enhance the Whole Child experience at Emerson School.

Adjournment