

Echo Hill PTO Meeting Minutes August 26, 2024



Call to Order Time: 6:32pm

Quorum: Wittkop Stouffer Becker Lough Mulholland

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tonight's PTO meeting was moved from in-person to online via Zoom as school was dismissed early today due to excessive heat. President Noelle Wittkop welcomed all online attendees to the meeting and offered an opportunity for attendees to introduce themselves. There were 15 online attendees.

2. General Business

- a) Noelle presented a brief overview of the PTO – who we are, who we are not, what we do all school year, and how parents and supporters can get involved. Her presentation included a quick introduction of PTO leadership for the 2024-2025 school year, typical PTO events and activities, the budget we work from, how we use our funds for the enrichment of all Echo Hill students and staff, and the importance of logging our volunteer hours.
- b) Noelle led the discussion about the Linn-Mar Foundation's offer of a substantial donation of used books for elementary-aged readers. These books would be free to our group and were offered for our consideration. After brief input from Principal McDonald and others, the group opted to decline the book donation at this time.
- c) Treasurer Molly Mulholland gave a brief recap of the PTO's financial standings. She mentioned that our bank has changed names – now known as Corda Credit Union, but no changes to our account, which currently has \$17,602 in cash deposits. Recent expenses for the PTO included renewal fees for our Zoom account and the PTO website hosting; recent expenditures included printing and other costs pertaining to the open house on August 22.

3. Principal McDonald's School Update

Principal McDonald reports that the school year is off to a great start and he's expecting this year to be one of continued growth and high achievement. Today's early dismissal due to heat was challenging, especially on such short notice from Alliant Energy, but he's pleased with the staff's

commitment to being flexible and working together for good outcomes.

PTO Activities/Events

4. Meet & Greet Summary: Noelle and Amy White reported that the Meet & Greet was a successful event with lots of families stopping by the PTO table in the front entrance. Flyers, bookmarks, BoxTops info and other PTO-centric materials were available on the PTO table. Photo opp in the hallway was installed by Amy Stouffer and enjoyed by families.

5. Homecoming 2024 + Float Planning: Noelle reported that Sarah Fridono will again be leading the Homecoming efforts for Echo Hill PTO, including float theming and creation. The parade is on Wednesday, September 25, time TBD... and all Echo Hill students and parents are invited to walk in the parade to represent our school. Reminder that students must be accompanied by a parent at the parade route (no drop offs); if you'd like to throw candy, please bring some with you (it is not supplied by the PTO). Watch for additional info coming soon.

6. Dash for Cash: Katie VanDenHuevel is this year's point person for Echo Hill's biggest fundraiser of the school year, Dash for Cash. Katie and Noelle have plans to meet soon to cover logistics, marketing needs, donation website, specific volunteer needs, obstacle course details, and more. Dash for Cash Fun Day is set for Friday, September 27, all day during specials time. Rain date is Friday, Oct. 4. It was noted that the company matches for Dash for Cash are crucial to the success of the fundraising effort. Watch for additional info coming soon.

7. Trunk or Treat: Ashlyn Wailand will again be coordinating Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 27, time TBD. Ashlyn noted that sponsorships have already been claimed for this event, but trunks are always needed. Reminder that this event is for Echo Hill families only, not open to the public. Watch for more info coming soon.

8. Student Directory: we will have one again this year, thanks to Echo Hill parent and volunteer Laura Taylor who is putting it together. The link for the directory is typically shared within the first couple weeks of school via Heather Feigenbaum's Tuesday e-newsletter. Watch for the directory coming soon.

9. Teacher Stipends: Noelle reminded the group that each teacher is allowed a \$100 stipend courtesy of the PTO, to be used for any classroom needs as they see fit. Each teacher was recently emailed the stipend reminder and form, along with a brief reminder of how to collect it for their classroom. We check periodically throughout the school year of who has claimed their teacher stipend, reminding as needed.

10. Committee Leads Updates:

a) Staci Sperflage, Hospitality Team lead, reported that she has started the process of monthly treats for teachers and staff. She looks forward to more opportunities to make our staff feel appreciated in the year ahead.

b) Amy White, HyVee + BoxTops lead, reported that the BoxTops credits are off to a good start, and HyVee receipts can be turned in anytime with teachers or the school office.

c) Curran Lipsett, Community Fundraising lead, was not present at the meeting, but Noelle offered that she was not aware of any fundraising opportunities yet for the year.

d) Noelle welcomed Echo Hill's new Volunteer Coordinators, Christine Lenhardt and Alex Hierl. Christine encouraged everyone to make sure their volunteer status with the district was up to date and renewed for the school year ahead. She mentioned that some early-year needs are already popping up, like lunch duty, bus assistance, and assistance on school picture day, to name a few. Her communication to volunteers will come out on Tuesdays, updating us on current needs and workshop dates.

Next meeting date: Monday, Sept. 16, 6:30pm in the Echo Hill Art Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

August 26, 2024 PTO virtual meeting attendees:

Name	Name	Name
Noelle Wittkop	Amy Stouffer	Jessica Becker
Heather Lough	Molly Mulholland	CJ McDonald
Christine Lenhardt	Amy White	Sarah Lisenbee
Cassandra Bechtel	Abby Huston	Katie VanDenHeuvel
Michelle Schuler	Micail McPhee	Ashlyn Wailand
Keith Tran	Karyl Lim	