



Eastford Elementary PTO

April 2, 2026

6:15PM

Meeting ID: please email us at pto@eastfordct.org for the zoom link

1. Attendees and Introductions
 - a. Carole McCombe, Aliesha Lynch, Brandy Montigny, Jessica Garvie, Candy Mead, Rachel Patenaude
2. Review March 5 2026 meeting minutes
 - a. Approved, Brandy 1st, Candy 2nd
3. Principal's Report
 - a. The Board of Education meeting is next week. The last day of school and Graduation dates will be finalized. Projected dates being June 19th for the last day and Graduation on June 18th.
 - b. A parent/student reading questionnaire is going to become a future part of the registration packet, rather than sent out around parent-teacher conferences.
 - c. A Budget meeting will be held on April 30th. Citizen participation is always welcome and encouraged.
 - d. The expense of the Washington D.C. trip has increased, therefore they have decided to incorporate a couple springtime fundraisers. In the works is a Munsons candy bar fundraiser and a Someone Special dance that will be held on May 9th and is open to the whole school. It is possible that in the future we may be implementing class dues starting in Kindergarten to raise funds or parents may have to cover some of the cost of the trip.
 - e. Beginning April 5th, the CT state police will be coming to the school during health class for the DARE program. Graduation from this program will be at the end of April and parents of participating students will be invited to attend.
 - f. Spring vacation is April 13th-18th.
 - g. Field day is scheduled for June 12th.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Due to the meeting falling on only the second day of the month, statements are not out yet. April will be added to May's PTO meeting minutes.
5. Old Business
 - a. Cash Calendar
 - i. The cash calendar drawing has been completed. I've finished the final portion of our raffle application and left it at the school to collect the remaining required signatures before submission. Once the form is fully signed, we can submit it to the town hall.
 - b. Pancake Breakfast

- i. Unfortunately we had to cancel the pancake breakfast. The following is what we sent home to parents, and all money was refunded apart from those that chose to donate their spendings.
 - ii. We sincerely apologize for having to cancel the upcoming pancake breakfast scheduled for March 29th. Unfortunately, due to limited participation, the amount of work required for preparation, organizing volunteers, and purchasing supplies exceeded the expected proceeds. As a result, it was not feasible to move forward with the event. We truly appreciate each and every one of you who signed up to participate. Refunds will be issued in the coming days. As always, we are grateful for your continued support. With all of our fundraising efforts, we aim to ensure that the time and energy invested benefits both our students and the volunteers who generously give their time.
- c. Parent Teacher Conference Dinner
 - i. According to the Google Doc sign-up sheet, we appear to be in good shape for the parent conference dinner. Thank you to Carole for volunteering to set up the breakroom. I look forward to hearing feedback from the staff and hope their appetites will be well satisfied.
- d. Washington DC bags
 - i. This year, the 7th & 8th grade will be traveling from May 19–22, and there will be 27 students attending.
 - ii. All items should be at the school by May 8th
 - iii. We sent out a Google survey for students to complete to help us coordinate items they're most likely to enjoy.
 - iv. All students responded to the survey except for one, and it's unlikely that their response will significantly impact the overall results. The responses were as follows:
 - 1. Doritos: 9 | Plain chips: 6
 - 2. Gum: Mint: 18 | Watermelon: 9
 - 3. Crackers: Peanut Butter: 16 | Cheese: 9
 - 4. Cheez-Its: 11 | Pretzels: 16
 - 5. Candy: Gummy Worms: 12 | Jolly Ranchers: 15
 - 6. Chewy granola bars: 17 | Nutri-Grain bars: 7
 - v. There were also many recommendations for offering multiple candy options, as well as energy drinks (such as Red Bull and Alani), and drinks like juice, water, and Gatorade.
 - vi. Nearly all students selected ponchos, tissues, sanitizer, mints, and Vaseline as essential items. One student provided especially thoughtful (and humorous) suggestions, including extra hair ties, hairbrushes, and toothbrushes in case someone forgets theirs. They also mentioned bringing extra deodorant—pointing out that “the guys stink,” making it a necessity—as well as feminine hygiene products just in case. The student concluded by thanking us for using the funds to purchase these items for their trip.

e. Spirit Wear

- i. I reached out to the vendor we previously used for our spirit wear orders, and he is able to help us create on-site inventory. To make this possible, we need to order a minimum of 12 items per design. Therefore, I created a Google Form survey for families and staff to complete, so we can identify their preferred design options.
- ii. To help determine which items would be most useful to keep on hand, we distributed a survey to staff and family last week and received a total of 35 responses. Based on those responses, the top choices are as follows:
 1. Option 6 - Eastford Elementary Sweatshirt with the paw (25 votes)
 2. Option 2 - The Eastford Bulldog Tshirt (20 votes)
 3. Option 4 - The Eastford Elementary Sweatpants (15 votes)
 4. Option 8,9 & 10 all were within 1 vote of each other
- iii. If this is something we'd like to move forward with, is there anyone who would be willing to take the lead on determining which sizes to keep in stock, how much inventory would be needed, and the estimated upfront cost, and then present those findings at next month's meeting? Ideally, we would have everything finalized by the end of the year so we can place an order over the summer and have it ready for the start of next school year's open house.

6. New Business

a. Staff Appreciation Week

- i. We are looking for a few individuals who would be willing to take the lead on Staff Appreciation Week beginning 5/4. In the past, we have offered small daily tokens of appreciation, but these were difficult to sustain without enough volunteers. Over the last two years, we have instead hosted a luncheon for staff; however, last year's event was delayed, which made it challenging for everyone to fully enjoy it.
- ii. All ideas are welcome

Adjourned 7:05pm Aliasha 1st, Candy 2nd