

EES PTO Meeting Minutes April 20, 2020

Attendance: Jessie Palm, Carol Mondello, Betsy McKeen, Carla Christensen, Jennifer Roberts, Letizia Donati, Theresa Whitman, and Francesa Segarra
via Zoom meeting -- recorded meeting --

Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes: Mar 2, 2020

Minutes were reviewed in the meeting via screen share. Carol made a motion for approval and Betsy seconded the motion. The motion carries.

Playground update:

Jessie Palm - The school committee met last week and a design was approved (designed to meet ADA requirements). The playground structure was ordered last week (20 week lead time) with a tentative arrival early September. There are features to the structure and add-ons that may be looking at for flexibility in costs. Site work should begin earlier than September (not sure of the plan when the current structure will come down). The Playground group and the district are pleased to see community involvement. The current proposal is budgeted at \$300,000 and has come in at this - however, there may be an impact on the reserve funds. The district would like to know about any determination on fundraising/donations from the PTO. Donations must be equitable across the district; Current discussion has included after the build donations such as benches, landscaping, etc.

Hello from Dr. Roberts:

During the current school closure, communication from the school is through a weekly update email from Dr. Roberts and individual contact with teachers. Dr. Roberts is anticipating that more information will be coming from the governor's office soon. If we are out for an additional amount of time, teachers and the education model will need to shift again. The district is waiting to see what information will be provided by the state and if there are adjustments to practice. Dr. Roberts commended the staff at EES and couldn't imagine doing this with any other staff.

Remote Learning Expectations are the same in both schools (district framework) - there is some concern about phase 3 (the introduction of power standards). The district will pull curriculum leaders from both schools to address these new expectations.

Concerns about future field trips were discussed. The Composer in Residence (a 5th-grade experience is about halfway through. Will there be a final project?) Maggie Morriss will reach out to him to (accommodating through technology) see where he is in the process and what might be possible. The Ballroom dancing lessons had been mostly completed and there were maybe 1-2 classes left. The final event will not be held. For other 5th grade activities (end of year trips), Dr. Roberts will research how the money moves with the Class as they move up to Middle School.

Book Fair update:

The Book Fair was successful, busy but quick. Sue Hardy has cash donations (approx. \$600). Funds are in the safe at school. The final bookkeeping and recording have not been completed yet as the building is currently closed.

Restaurant Night Out updates:

Bravo by the Sea hosted a Night Out on March 11th. There was a raffle in the restaurant. Carla has the cash from the raffle. Corey is picking up the check from Bravo (waiting to pick up/ask) and the Jalapenos fundraiser brought in \$267 and the check will be deposited.

Update on canceled events:

The PTO was planning on the Drop and Shop collection, but this event was postponed. We are hoping for a later date in the Fall/Winter. Due to some of the early collection of items that did not fit the description of allowed items, there may need to be additional discussion and support when this event does occur.

STEM Night has been canceled in April. STEM Night deposited grant (NEB - we can keep the money and use it when we have STEM night)

Treasurer's Update:

Canceled events that have been pre-paid will be reviewed.

Composer in Residence - the Cultural Council grant has paid. About ½ of the instruction has occurred.

STEM Night has been canceled in April. The STEM Night grant received from New England Biolabs will roll forward and be used when we have STEM night.

Open Business:

Giles Laroche was being scheduled and will be reviewed pending the state's decision regarding school closure.

Suzanna South has a request. Carla will email her and have her submit electronically.

Teacher Appreciation ideas (May 4-9):

We can't do a luncheon, but what else?? (videos from the kids, classroom level - colored thank you posters, thank you notes) The PTO will encourage parents to reach out directly to parents to do appreciation.

Community Read activity (Theresa Whitman) - This event will likely not be in school; a discussion will be held as to how to responsibly distribute the books using the Zone pick-up/drop-off, box pick-up; pick-up service.

The Talent Show will happen virtually. The virtual proposal has been approved and parents should look for information from teachers in the future.

The PTO will email reminders to staff to email funding requests for any stipends and needs for enrichment they may have.

The next EES PTO meeting is TBD pending Gov. Baker's decisions (It is currently scheduled for May 11th).

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called by Carol Mondello and Francesca Segarra seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.