

**EES PTO Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020**

Attendance: Theresa Whitman, Jennifer Roberts, Rachelle Russo, Jessie Palm, Carla Christensen, Corey Fealtman, Carol Mondello, Suzanne Bediz, Jason Fouser, Betsy McKeen

Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes: October 28, 2019 (November meeting)

The minutes were amended to add EYC to the Halloween Walk section. Betsy McKeen made the motion to approve the minutes and Carla Christensen seconded. The motion passed.

Dr. Roberts Update:

The School Council met today and is considering adding a parent liaison to the School Improvement Plan to promote the good things that are going on at EES. The Parent Survey is being edited and will be ready to send out before February break.

The district RULER initiative (social-emotional intelligence; from YALE) has been selected to participate in a research study on the efficacy of the program. There will be focus groups, access to classroom artifacts, and access to the curriculum. After the first visit, the researchers were impressed. This will be a 2-year research study.

The spring MCAS dates have been published in the newsletter. There was a goodbye ceremony for the Eagle's Nest.

Playground update/election of PTO representative:

There is an Eagle's Nest interim plan -- Pam appointed Jennifer to be in charge of the interim plan for kids' activities. Jason/Avi through facilities will plan the new technical parts of the next playground (bids, etc.).

There was a meeting last week for brainstorming activities/equipment. An Amazon order was placed and should be arriving this week through Jennifer Roberts. If parents have any questions about the timeline they should direct them to Jason/Avi.

The School Committee put out charge to the Steering Committee/Working Group (Jake, Jess); the purpose of the Steering Committee is to guide the community effort to support the work toward the completion of the new playground. The PTO requested representation and is seeking candidates for the position. The remaining members of the committee will be parents (Essex, Manchester)/district staff/school committee. This is an aggressive timeline (contractor/design, materials). There will be meetings every 2 weeks and meetings are open to the public at EES. There will be a website located on mersd.org for information the next meeting time is Feb 10 at 3:30 pm - and the final meeting will be at the April 6th School Committee meeting to make recommendations to the School Committee.

The election will be held next week for the PTO representative, and the Executive Board will need a quorum to vote. To engage potential candidates, there will be an email to all parents and social media posting, including a tentative schedule.

In the interim, the PTO would consider funding hot-top toys using an interim plan for spring (April 2020) wish list (consumables, etc.) potentially using a Signup genius.

Community Read update:

Theresa Whitman reported on the current status of the Community Read. There had been a confusion of dates this year. Due to the grant funding determined April 1, the PTO has traditionally held this event later in the spring. The early release date in May is the typical date for this event. This year's selection is The Laughiteria by Douglass Florian. The total cost of this project is \$1700 - \$2500 and is partially grant-funded. The teachers would prefer to host in December, but this may be difficult as we would need to complete two submissions for grant funding to the Hooper Fund in one fiscal year.

Upcoming Events:

The Book Fair (3/5/2020 - 3/6/2020): Betsy McKeen reported that Alina Franklin is the chair and has been working with Scholastic and Susan Hardy to plan the event. There will be a report to March meeting.

The STEM Night (4/3/2020): Carla Christensen reported that Jenna Ware-Hough is the chair and has submitted requests for grant funding to cover the exhibition costs. There will be some changes to the groups and Jenna is looking for additional exhibits.

Treasurer's Update:

The recent Restaurant Night at Antique Table raised \$250 and \$150 for the raffle. There will be an upcoming event at Bravo-by-the-Sea in March.

There are some questions about this year's MCBA billing through Follett, which will need to be addressed by the Treasurer.

The Family Appeal has raised \$4000 so far and the Business Appeal has raised \$1300. The PTO should update current listings and send out a targeted second appeal.

Polar Plunge:

The weather was great and the event was covered in the Manchester Cricket. The event made a profit of \$1795 (expenses: police \$250, EMT - no charge, signs/posters - donated). Additionally, there was sponsorship of \$200. Betsy is willing to plan again for next year as the chair. The teachers would request a way to support the event but find a way to get out of nominations without a cost to them.

Funding Requests:

There were no new requests at the meeting. Carla will send reminders for stipends.

Open Business:

The Class gifts were traditionally auctioned at the Spring auction. The PTO will consider a live auction at Field Day.

There will be a March 10th Teacher Appreciation Lunch hosted by 2nd/4th grades. There will be a Signup Genius.

Rich Carpenter requested assistance in supporting the Composer in Residence programming this year. It covers the 5th-grade unit. There is a grant available, however additional funding is needed (need \$800; grant covers \$1200). Betsy made a motion that the PTO will submit a grant to Hooper Fund application and defer the decision regarding additional funding until our next meeting. Carla seconded the motion and it passed.

The 5th grade trip to Merrowvista will be a 5th grade culminating experience. Meetings and planning have occurred at both buildings. As part of the activities, there is a request for a deposit from EES (\$150 / student). The costs for the entire experience are low enough that no additional money should be needed due to the prior fundraising (pancake, ice cream, class gifts) There is a plan to add on ½ day to schedule (4 day trips) which will include a Step UP day lunches. Would this be funded by PTO (44 students)? Memorial PTO will contribute to lunches for Memorial students. The EES PTO will look for pricing on lunches and revisit this at the next meeting.

Betsy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm and Carla seconded. The motion passed.