

EES PTO Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021 -- Zoom meeting

Attendance: Zoom meeting (Betsy McKeen, Carla Christensen, Letizia Donati, Jennifer Roberts, Suzanne Bediz, Hilary Mattison, Maggie Gleason)

Welcome/Introductions: Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Welcome/remarks from Dr. Roberts:

Thank you to Lori Lufkin for the Valentine's cookies drop-off! They were beautiful and delicious. The teachers much appreciated it. All students in K-2 will be coming back in-person four days a week after February vacation. Classrooms are moving around to accommodate the spacing needs. Teachers are flexible in the move. They are moving the physical aspects of the space on Friday and will prepare for all of the K-2 students' arrival on Tuesday, 2/23/2021. Students and staff are working out some new processes and procedures around dismissal (starting around 2:45 pm). Kids continue to impress with their flexibility.

There will be MCAS in grades 3, 4, 5. There will not be an accountability factor, more of a check as to where we are. There will be additional information after training with the state.

Second grade is using StoryJumper to create a published book. Ms. Kazmarcik's class is making the book and is requesting a class set (\$176). There is a funding request to be considered later in the meeting.

Curriculum decisions are made at the district level through committees.

New enrichment: Virtual Yoga Update:

Yoga opportunities are currently on hold until the K-2 re-integration. Potential times might be on Mondays (either during the synchronous time or after the dismissal).

January Teacher Appreciation Lunch recap & planning for future lunches - Melanie Healey:

The appreciation lunch cost \$420 (\$350 directly to The Mill), and donations collected totaled \$240 from families (this is a decrease in the level of contributions). We could consider only doing one more in March.

Other ideas for food for the March luncheon: pizza, sandwiches, and other individually wrapped items

Teacher Appreciation New Idea - Hilary Mattison:

A new project/idea to show teacher appreciation is a Thank You Raffle for Teachers (each teacher would get a gift of gratitude). After discussion, Hilary and the district determined that it can exceed the \$50 limit if the gift is anonymous. We would need to collect 47 donations for the raffle. Raffle items could include services. Hilary has lots of ideas (big thank yous - a vacation home, a teepee in the backyard,

painting lessons, etc.). There is a need for smaller, more straightforward ideas, such as gift cards, etc. Hosting a Yankee Swap or similar would be the idea for teacher selection of gifts. Maggie would be a great school-based coordinator. What is needed: 4 teams of people (pairs) responsible for gathering 12 gifts/donations. Hilary can do the organization end if others can help gather ideas/commitments. Teacher appreciation week is the first week of May. (Maggie can send out information in April to share with staff) if we continue with this idea. The PTO could have kids make cards/signs as well for the selection event.

Family Appreciation Program Update:

February bags are likely prepared and should be sent out during the last week of February.

Book Fair Update - Betsy/Carla/Alina:

Carla feels that we shouldn't use Scholastic Book Fair this year. MMES did a virtual fair with The Book Shop in Beverly Farms. The Book Shop will do shipping, or you can pick it up in Beverly Farms. The PTO will make a small percentage of the total sales. Recommendation: We use The Book Shop or a small local business (other local stores - Newburyport). We are looking at maybe an April date. Carla will get more details for the next meeting (March).

New fundraising - Happy as a Reading Clam Story Walk - Maggie Gleason:

The PTO could set up a Book Walk (Happy As a Reading Clam Story Walk) as a new fundraiser. Maggie has discussed using the Cox Reservation space for the physical walk, and they support the idea. It would have to meet their requirements for an event (social distancing, etc.).

- Decompose the book - and display it on a trail
- Sign Up Genius to organize families for social distancing
- PTO table - sell slots, copies of the book, T-shirts (contact Jungle), snacks (consider waste and impact)
- Sponsor a page (business or families)
- Flashlight walk (probable sunset closure)

The Cox Reservation could support community involvement (they can provide an intern from Essex Tech). The PTO would have a dedicated weekend (if there is a collection of money, it would have to meet the Cox Reservation/Essex Greenbelt wording for donation). We could use Sign Up Genius to do sign-ups but would need to figure out payment systems.

Consider using a local author (check with April Warner), using a book about nature; local artist/authors -- Book Fair tie-in?

To include kids: host a contest to design the "shirt."

Time frame (April 10/11) -- Earth Day; we will need rain date (weekend) - TBD

Community Read Day Update - Theresa Whitman:

Mrs. Cucuru/Dr. Roberts will do some polling with staff (interest level, book choices, etc.) regarding this. The school will send information out.

VP, Treasurer, and Social Media Coordinator search update:

Carla has the description ready to go out for review to be sent out to the whole school. A possible candidate for Treasurer has been identified (might need to have a special election to fill the position before June). The Social Media Coordinator search continues with a few possibilities.

Approval of prior meeting's minutes:

This item is moved to next month. We will approve January and February minutes.

Teacher stipend fulfillments update:

Mrs. Russo is using her stipend for chairs; Ms. Jordan is using her stipend for six scoop rockers (\$74.99 - order from amazon).

New funding requests:

Ms. Kazmarcik submitted a funding request for \$136 (she uses \$40 from her stipend to reduce the cost) + shipping for a StoryJumper class set of books. Suzanne Bediz motioned to approve the funding request; Letizia Donati seconded and, the motion passed.

There is paperwork for an Outstanding Follett invoice which the Treasurer is reviewing. A family donation has been received.

Next meetings:

March 11, 2021, at 7:30 pm

April 8, 2021, at 7:30 pm

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Suzanne Bediz and seconded by Carla Christensen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.