

EES PTO Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021 -- Zoom meeting

Attendance: Zoom meeting (Betsy McKeen, Suzanne Bediz, Carla Christensen, Maggie Gleason, Melanie Healey, Jennifer Roberts, Diana Remare, Kerrie Blanchette)

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Carla Christensen at 7:35 pm.

Remarks from Dr. Roberts:

School is going well. Families are continuing to transition into hybrid learning. The school sent out a letter about RTI (response to intervention) for this year. This year's focus was initially for Tier 1 (providing support for all students in the classroom-extra person in the classroom). There is a brand-new literacy program (Wonders) for staff to learn and roll out this year. Assessments into December and are now reviewing the data (teachers identify students with noticed needs and plan the services throughout the classroom model). Tier 2 services will be starting soon. Teacher conferences are coming up soon, and you will probably receive information from the teacher about the RTI implementation for your student.

Teacher absences are impactful, but with the additional staff in the room, they have not had to keep students out of the building. The school appreciates the flexibility that parents have shown.

School pictures are being planned. Look for information coming from Maggie.

Kids are continuing to show flexibility and resilience. Betsy offered herself to provide information to staff regarding the vaccine if staff had any questions.

Kindergarten registration will be coming up, and it will most likely be online.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch Update: Melanie Healey

Josh from The Mill will provide 50 assorted sandwiches and wraps, including GF and vegetarian options. There will be a pick-up/drop-off on Thursday morning on the bench. Beverages and chips will be purchased from Costco. A post to Facebook for donations has gone out. We will send out an additional request for donations via the Family Directory. Money can be cash or Venmo to Melanie (we will include the handle) - email Betsy the information. The luncheon will happen this Thursday.

There will be a Cookie Appreciation for Teachers (individually wrapped) for Valentine's Day in February, prior to the break and the next luncheons will be scheduled soon. (March and May luncheons)

Book Fair Update: Alina Franklin

The PTO is considering an online book fair with Scholastic but is looking into alternate options, including what happened at MMES. Memorial did a virtual book fair last spring, and in fall, they partnered with Beverly Farms Book Shop. The Book Shop brought books to school, but this might pose some logistical difficulty; we have input from Ms. Silag. She considered the level of work and community impact and feels the library cannot take on this role, especially not this year and probably not in the future; families miss the fun activities/events.

Family Appreciation Program Update:

Maggie Gleason put together the family goody bags for this month. Families can get into the Directory by searching for an initial email from Maggie Morriss. The PTO's mission is to spread joy; Maggie did an incredible job on the teachers' goody bags in December.

Enrichment: Yoga Update

Yoga sessions (provider: Erin McKay) are available for interested teachers (current interest in 3 classrooms -- K, 1, 2). Previously, the Enrichment Coordinator would attend common planning sessions to discuss potential enrichment opportunities; this has been difficult over the last few years. If

enrichment ideas arise during PTO discussions, these ideas should be shared with Jennifer Roberts, the principal, and include the PTO board to move the discussion forward. Jennifer will present opportunities and ideas to the teachers; then, they will indicate to the PTO Enrichment Coordinator their interest in the opportunity.

Community Read:

Theresa wasn't present to present an update. The PTO Board provided a brief history of the event. During the Community Read, each family receives a book that teachers provide enrichment around. We include families that are in the community but may not attend the school. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there was a remote pick-up last year. The PTO will reach out to MMES to see if they are hosting a similar event.

VP, Treasurer, and Social Media Coordinator Search Update:

The PTO is seeking potential candidates for these positions. Carla is reaching out to parents in the K, 1, and 2 classrooms via email.

Betsy continues to seek out individuals for the Social Media Coordinator position. All currently available positions will be advertised through an email from Maggie Morriss on behalf of the PTO.

Approval of prior meeting's minutes:

The minutes from the December PTO meeting were reviewed. Betsy made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Carla seconded, and the motion was approved.

Teacher Stipend Fulfillment Update:

Amazon deliveries are getting lost at the building. The PTO needs to check on the current status of Mrs. Cucuru's request. There are no stipend requests this month.

New Funding Requests:

There are no new funding requests. Reminders have been sent regarding stipends and funding requests.

Restaurant Night:

The PTO discussed options around fundraising with a Restaurant Night. With the widespread impact of Covid-19 restrictions on restaurants, it doesn't seem like the right time to run a Restaurant Night.

Happy As A Clam Race:

The HAAC committee has researched the possibility of running this event in the spring. However, it will probably not run it. Any virtual replacement activity would have a fundraising goal of about \$2000.

Finance Update:

The Box Tops for Education program paid the EES PTO \$30.50 for the last quarter. The Jungle (Gear Sale) brought in \$498.00.

Next meetings:

February 11, 2021, at 7:30 pm

March 11, 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 8:49 pm.