

Friends of EES

EES PTO Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021 -- Zoom meeting

Attendance: Zoom meeting (Jennifer Roberts, Letizia Donati, Carla Christensen, Maggie Gleason, Jessie Palm, Betsy McKeen)

Welcome/Introductions: Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. This is the last meeting of this academic year.

Welcome/remarks from Dr. Roberts:

Thank you to the PTO. The school and staff appreciate all that has been done this year. We can't thank you enough! The Community Read was Monday, June 7, 2021, and the book was enjoyable and worked on so many levels. The playground is moving along. There were some issues around water, and the Facilities Director is facilitating the project, and it continues to progress. Dr. Roberts and the staff are looking forward to starting the new year with a celebration to open the playground.

Next week field days are planned. The Grade 5 send-off is scheduled for Monday, 6/14. The hope is for nice weather to have the outdoor activities.

The district's hope for plans next academic year is that there will still be some restrictions, but there may be things that will ease. Adaptability will be necessary for most planned activities. Outdoor activities should be fine. Indoor activities may still be questionable.

Playground Update:

It is exciting to see it up. Unfortunately, there are flooding issues (water drainage issues) on the site and will need to be resolved before the poured in place goes in. The School Committee approved the use of the donated PTO funds and donations of time/labor, equipment, and products for this project. The playground committee will be meeting the week after next to plan volunteer use and the next steps. There is hope for a soft opening or that the playground will be operational this summer. There will be a formal opening during the fall of 2021.

Book Fair Recap:

Thank you to everyone who purchased. There were some late orders, and Hannah Harlow (owner) is excited to do an in-person fair next year. A total of twenty families ordered (seemed low but according to the book fair participation was average for a school our size).

School Supplies Fundraiser for 2021-2022:

No update

Happy As A Clam Race:

This event does not need a safety plan. It is scheduled for Friday, 9/17. It has been approved by the Board of Health and the Board of Selectman. We will be using a new timing company. The PTO will email Great Marsh for sponsorship.

Vote by the Board to formally confirm organizational name change to Friends of Essex Elementary School:

Carla Christensen made a motion that the Board votes to formally confirm our name change to Friends of Essex Elementary School (FoEES) in accordance with the DBA form approved by the Town of Essex on 6/10/21. Letizia Donati seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the name change.

We have the website (<http://friendsofees.com/>) and will redirect the old website address to land on the new address. Additionally, there will be a new logo design that will be unveiled at the start of the new year.

Kindergarten Playdate:

This event is scheduled for Sunday, August 22, 2021. We will have Maggie Morriss send out a Save the date. Maggie Gleason will organize the event with some volunteers. There is a rain date of Sunday, 8/29.

2021 - 2022 Calendar Review/Events:

September -

9/1/21 -- First Day Coffee (outside)

TBD -- Playground Opening

9/17/21 -- Happy As A Clam

November - Messy Art (under the tent) 11/19 (tentative)

January - Polar Plunge is scheduled for 1/15

March - Book Fair is scheduled for 3/10-11 (tentative)

STEM Night (grant roll-over from NEBioLabs from spring 2020) - April 2022 TBD (potential for 4/8, 4/1)

The following events will need to have dates determined -- Restaurant Nights; Teacher Appreciation Lunches; and the Hoedown.

2021 - 2022 (FY22) Budget approval:

The budget was not available for review at the time of the meeting. Therefore, an emergency meeting will be held before the end of the fiscal year.

Elections for Open Positions:

- **Vice President:** Maggie Gleason was nominated as co-Vice President and is looking for a co-VP (which can be added later). Betsy McKeen made the motion to approve her nomination/election. Carla Christensen seconded the motion. Maggie Gleason was elected to the position.
- **Treasurer:** Michelle Dyer (candidate in absentia) was nominated as Treasurer. Carla Christensen made a motion to approve her nomination/election. Betsy McKeen seconded the motion, and Michelle Dyer was elected to the position effective July 1, 2021.

Teacher Stipends/Funding Requests:

There are no new funding requests. June 15 is the last day for stipends or requests. There were three stipend forms this month via email. The PTO is waiting on Hooper Fund check for the Community Read event.

Approval of prior meeting's minutes:

April minutes were approved as written.

Next meeting: TBD

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carla Christensen and seconded by Suzanne Bediz. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.