

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

Attendance: Zoom meeting (Betsy McKeen, Carla Christensen, Jessie Palm, Diana Remare, Suzanne Bediz, Maggie Gleason, Michelle Dyer, Letizia Donati)

Welcome/Introductions: Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Welcome/remarks from Dr. Roberts: Dr. Roberts was unable to attend the meeting this month. An email was sent by the district regarding Parent Conferences.

Playground Update and Vote on Donation of Funds:

The Playground working group is meeting again and will be at the School Committee meeting on Tuesday. The old Eagle's Nest structure was taken down. The new design has been ordered and should arrive in April. The working group may explore addressing the current need for social distancing. A discussion surrounding the financial questions impacting a PTO donation to the project included how to raise community funds and incorporate the community (275+ people have expressed interest in assisting with the project). The PTO has available funds that were part of a Playground budget line (approximately \$30,000) from prior to the regionalization of the district. A determination will need to be made by School Committee as to how these funds may be applied to the current playground project and the PTO would like to complete the donation prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

Book Fair Update - Carla:

The Book Shop, a local bookstore, has run book fairs with other local schools. They have a website that they will set up and host. The PTO would receive 20% of the total sales in the form of cash or books. The Book Shop can organize the website by leveled readers or grade level and have a full online ordering system. The books will arrive at the store and parents can pick them up curbside in Beverly Farms at their store OR the books could be delivered to the school. They won't ship books directly to parent homes. Additional questions include (1) would they accept donations for the teachers (using gift cards, direct purchase, etc.)? (2) Could we run the donations through the PTO and complete purchases for teacher wishlists? (3) How long does it stay open? (probably a week to 10 days). Dates were discussed and determined that it should open after MCAS testing (currently scheduled for May - second half).

Staff Gift Drive Update - Hilary Mattison:

An email was sent out from Maggie Morriss for the Staff Gift Drive. There is a 4-person team managing this event. The committee has met and is currently working on language for the "ask" to send out to families and will continue to develop a plan for delivery.

Happy as a Reading Clam Story Stroll - Maggie Gleason:

Current planning for this event is moving along. The event could use the existing HAAC logo. The PTO could update essex5k.org as an additional landing page for the event; SignUpGenius has a donation/charge option but needs the PTO financial information to set up this option. The funds will go into a PayPal account. Maggie will connect with Francesca/Michelle for the financial information. A link will be added to the PTO website. Opportunities to sponsor pages will be provided on the website. The suggested donation for a 30-minute time slot will be \$20 for a family. A Vistaprint banner would be a nice addition to the building for marketing and for the days of the stroll to use at the check-in table. Additional questions include: can we set up Friday afternoon at Cox? Can we use HS volunteers?

Community Read Day Update:

No action yet. Mrs. Cucuru is reaching out to teachers to check their interest level in this activity.

New Enrichment - Virtual Yoga Revisit:

Teachers can request an individual opportunity for virtual yoga if they would like using a funding request form found on the PTO website.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch Planning (March):

The next teacher appreciation lunch will probably include options for individual servings from Cape Ann Pizza and Subs. There will be additional information soon.

Family Appreciation Gift Raffle:

This project needs volunteers to build and distribute the April, May, and June gift bags. The March Raffle Gift Bag is ready to go and will be selected and delivered soon.

VP, Treasurer, and Social Media Coordinator search update:

The PTO is looking for parents to serve as vice president next year. The position is currently filled and there is an opportunity to shadow the current VP, Carla Christensen. An email was sent out this week by Maggie Morriss detailing all of the PTO Board opportunities. Additional board positions include Treasurer and the Social Media Coordinator (manage Instagram account, Facebook account, and the PTO website).

Teacher stipend fulfillments update and corrections:

Carla is working on stipend fulfillments from February. Mrs. Cucuru is putting in a stipend request and Carla will check on its status.

New funding requests:

There are no new funding requests this month.

The PTO received a generous donation from a group of Essex Dads who used the SuperBowl to donate. The PTO thanks you!

Approval of prior meeting's minutes:

The meeting minutes from the February 2021 meeting were approved as written. The January 2021 minutes were approved as well by Betsy McKeen.

Next meetings:

April 8, 2021, at 7:30 pm

May 6, 2021, at 7:30 pm

June 3, 2021, at 7:30 pm

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carla Christensen and seconded by Betsy McKeen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.