

EES PTO Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021 -- Zoom meeting

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

Welcome/Introductions: Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Welcome/remarks from Dr. Roberts:

Teacher Appreciation Week has been a great success. The gift exchange was so much fun. Teachers have enjoyed the food and ice cream. They feel appreciation and love from families and parents. The staff is looking forward to lunch tomorrow.

The playground build is in progress. The structure is being assembled and will be installed soon. The playground won't be ready until the fall, and the school will have a ceremony/celebration then.

MCAS testing will happen during the whole week of May 24. The testing window is shorter this year. Each subject (Math, ELA, and Science) only has one session. Technology classes will review how to use the tools in the testing windows before the test.

End of Year activities: Planning for Field Day is underway for kids (no parents this year), and it will probably not be the last day of school. Ideas include the possibility for each grade to have their activities and field day. Each grade level will be outside for about an hour. The district is trying to do a 5th grade field day separately to help with an End of EES Celebration.

Staff Gift Drive Update - Hilary Mattison:

Everything was donated for the week, so there was no cost to the PTO. The MAC agreed to offer a reduced membership rate (\$69/month) for all full-time teachers and classroom aides for the district, so there is parity across the district. Maggie and Jennifer will confirm with the district HR/business office that this offer is distributed.

Happy as a Clam Story Recap - Maggie Gleason:

Story Walk was a great event! It brought in around \$1000. The setup and clean-up were easy. Thank you notes and tax letters are going out. It was an excellent community event.

Playground Update:

The project is moving along quickly. The PTO would like to find a positive way to include the additional planned materials (seating, walkways, landscaping). The PTO or Playground Committee needs to present a proposal for the addition to the playground. Currently, it appears that the proposal should not include a walkway. The next School Committee meeting is 5/16/2021. Betsy McKeen made a motion to donate the balance of the Playground Fund to the current EES playground project pending approval by the donation of the entire amount to the EES playground project by the MERSD School Committee. Letizia Donati seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Gear Sale:

This fundraiser is currently open, and Betsy will send out a reminder through Facebook and social media. It will close in 3 days.

Book Fair Update:

Everything is ready to go for this event. The website is built. Grade levels and teacher bookshelves organize the website. We could offer a "Clear a bookshelf challenge." The Book Fair will start May 17 - June 1. Books can be picked up or sent to EES on June 11/12, 2021. Carla will organize a drop-off at EES. There is currently no need for Book Fair help; however, there may be a request for volunteers later at delivery.

Community Read Day Update:

The books for the Community Read Day are ordered and have arrived. Mrs. Cucuru and Mrs. Russo have organized the teachers and staff for this event. The PTO will distribute the books into classrooms on June 4. Activities will be on June 7. Teachers are planning activities for their classrooms. The books were ordered from Scholastic.

Field Day Planning:

Mr. Marche is working on a plan for students and will have details after developing district-level plans are settled.

School Supplies for 2021-2022:

The PTO needs to check on the current status of this fundraiser. Carla will check with Theresa later this month regarding this opportunity.

Happy As A Clam Race:

The PTO has a date for The Happy As A Clam Race, September 17, 2021 (Friday night). Betsy will reach out to sponsors personally to determine levels of funding interests. The event is using a new timing company this year, and the deposit has been paid. There is a DJ booked for the event. It is doubtful that there will be food. The event will need additional planning and checks to manage the regulations around COVID as the date gets closer.

2021-2022 (FY22) Budget Discussion:

Francesca and Michele are working to spend time together to review the position of treasurer and current information. The executive board needs to schedule a budget meeting to update and review the budget.

VP Search Update:

The PTO continues to work on finding possible candidates for open positions.

MCBA Books Update:

Books for the MCBA book list were ordered and should have arrived at EES. The total cost is about \$550. This year the books were not ordered from Follett. There was not much librarian input on the MCBA books. The teachers expressed that they would like to order the books earlier in the school year.

Teacher Stipends/Funding Requests:

There were no requests this week. A reminder email will go out to notify teachers of the approaching deadline for their stipend.

Kindergarten Screening:

The Kindergarten screening will be happening in early June at EES. The PTO involvement letter will be sent to Maggie to include in the packets. The PTO will review the Kindergarten playdate event at the June 2021 meeting.

Approval of prior meeting's minutes:

The PTO's April meeting minutes were approved as written.

Next meeting: June 10 at 7:30 pm (TBD)

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Carla Christensen and seconded by Suzanne Bediz. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.