**EES PTO Meeting Minutes**

**October 28, 2019 (November Meeting)**

**Attendance:** Corey Fealtman, Laura Campbell, Mr. Skiba, Dr. Roberts, Carla Christsensen, Carol Mondello, Betsy, Letezia Donati

Carla Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Carol made a mention to approve the minutes from 10/9/19 – Carla seconded.

**Portraits in the cafeteria/**possible new commission for a female leader. Carla updated us that the artist Rob Surrette is booked until 2020-2021 school year.

--Fee is $2500 and the painting is an additional approx.. $500

--Will need to get on wait list if we decide we have the funds.

--Could consider a grant from the local cultural council.

**School Council positions filled by the school:** Jonti Rodi, Kate Chroust, Jessica Perrigo-Palm. PTO will not need to hold an election.

**Dr. Roberts:**

--High school students from the GSA recently came and spoke to the teachers about Gender Inclusivity – went very well and was very put-together and informative.

--Mr. Skiba will be taking the lead on the Essex portion of the activities that will replace the Merrowvista experience. Gina Hatfield and Theresa Whitman will also represent Essex; there will be 2 teachers and 2 parents from Manchester Memorial and a member of school committee. The question of how to handle fundraising was discussed. There may be some off-site activities a few days. Aiming to have the same total cost as Merrowvista was previously – about $350 per kid. The Santa Breakfast (a community, *not* a school event) will occur at Woodman’s as it did last year. Dr. Roberts wants to be clear that in 2018 it was moved out of the school site by request of the parents that were organizing the event. Final note is that fundraising for this 5th grade experience, whatever it may be, is fully run by 5th grade parents, and not by the school.

**Halloween Walk Snack Bar Fundraising:**

--Wasn’t super successful and we ended up losing money (about $30 lost)

--Overbought and undercharged – and spent about 4 hrs running it.

--Leftover snacks can be sold at future events

**Future of Class Gifts:**

--Traditionally was auctioned off during the big PTO spring auction which will not be happening.

--Feeling is that we should continue with the tradition of class gifts and that they should be auctioned off at spring time PTO events, restaurant night, or field day

**Restaurant Night Updates:**

--Corey updated us that Antique Table agreed to host quarterly

--Wednesday Dec 11, 2019 at Jalepenos -

--Tuesday Jan 14, 2020 at Antique Table

--Bravo by the Sea

--Laura to try for CK Pearl in March

--Riversbend, The Farm, Shea’s possibly in the Spring

--Aiming for 6 total

Dec: Grade 4

Jan: Kindergarten

Feb: Grade 2

March: Grade 3

April: Grade 1

May: Grade 5

**New Fundraising Ideas**

--Polar Plunge – input from Chief Silva and Chief Douchette – waiting on pricing for ambulance. Dr. Roberts is aware.

--Bowling Night – Carol will be in touch with bowling

**Hoedown Update:**

--Went really well, nice coverage in the Cricket. Good attendance.

**Messy Art Night Update:**

--Janitor staffing is all set; building use form is done

--Jade and Natasha are working on the artist list

--Food for the volunteers/artists will be from Chebacco Market

--Small budget to reimburse artists (most donate the supplies)

--Carla will send Betsy the Sign-Up Genius to circulate

**Enrichment Update:** no updates for now

**5th Grade Composer In Residence:**

--Carla just helped Mr. Carpenter apply for a grant from a new organizations

**Open positions:**

--Need someone with Grant Writing experience: To provide support to teachers and staff in applying for 3-4 grants a year to fund enrichment experiences.

Spent about 30 min stuffing envelopes for the business appeal.

$80 for stamps and $10 for labels

Betsy made a motion to ajourn the meeting at 8:43 pm; Carla seconded.