

# Friends of EES

March 7, 2022

Present in person: Maggie Gleason - Vice President, Betsy McKeen - President, Heather Harrell - Treasurer, Letizia Donati - Enrichment Coordinator  
Dr Roberts, Rachel Mc Innis, Amanda Derosier, Jessica Torcicollo, Mr Carpenter via Zoom  
Meeting called to order at 7:34p by Maggie, VP in person

Dr Roberts, more and more masks coming off now that we are in our second week. Teachers have done a nice job of normalizing it for kids continuing to wear the masks. Kids don't seem phased by it. Asked teachers to talk to kids and there haven't been any concerns. Betsy asked if there were any up ticks of kids with symptoms. Essex hasn't had any up ticks in anything other than a stomach bug lately. Morning check in with the nurse every morning, and everything has been good. Parents seem to be more mindful and keep kids home when they need to.

School budget, Betsy asked if we would lose foreign language program. Dr Roberts said that there is more to be discussed on that but it looks like they are going in that direction. The SC voted on a number and there will be some restructuring, 3 PT reading techs might be lost, school psych roles might be restructured. A lot of districts don't have elementary language and seem to have more music.

Coach with Michael Eatman Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) met with all teachers on Wednesday and will help develop their awareness. 3x a year there are assessments for individual needs development. Elementary math specialist Steven Costello, came to all of the data meetings. He shared his time with Memorial and is now spending 4 days in Essex. Response to Intervention (RTI) K, 1, & 2 for intervention grade 4 collaborating with teachers. Using data to see where he needs to focus on.

Book Fair- Samantha Silag- March 31st and April 1. Thursday set up for Book Fair. Classes will book shop for 20 min starting at noon until 2p. Classes can visit on Friday 10a-2p. Asked Dr Roberts for a family night and open to the public. Dr Roberts suggested limiting the numbers in the library to keep a little space. Maybe staggering the times. Beverly Farms wants to pack things up earlier but Betsy would like it to stay open until 6p for working parents. Family Night will start at 3:30p, 30 min time slots until 6:30p for families to sign up. Book Fair theme is Fishing for a Good Book

Logistics with the Y, where can they go for Aftercare? They will take a corner of the cafeteria for the kids to meet while the library is being used. Using envelopes to send home for parents to

send money to school for the book fair. Classroom teacher holds on to the envelopes for the kids. Envelopes state what time and day their kids are going to the book fair. Change goes back in the envelopes and they are sealed for the parents. Envelopes can go out the week before to Maggie Safrine so they can go out.

5th grade teachers met Wednesday, what types of events could replace the Merrowvista camping experience. Maybe there could be some fundraisers. Breakfast at holidays and ice cream social. Betsy encourages 5th grade families to look for ways to fundraise for the event. PTO has never used any funds or participated in the fundraising for the 5th grade trip. Jerry Palotta- Letizia met with Samantha. Book ordering will have to be moved up so Jerry has time to sign the books. Parents can order books or bring their own books in and he will sign them. Samantha will send an email to.

Teacher appreciation lunch update March 15th. Melanie Healey will send out a sign up genius to grades 1, 3, 5. Amanda Derosier will transition with Melanie to start taking over the teacher appreciation lunch coordination. May 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week will be spearheaded by Hillary Mattison.

The Community Read event will not happen in the Spring. In June after the end of the year, maybe hype up the hodge podge Community Read day with all of our left over books. Theresa thinks that she can make it work. Kate Koch offered to take over Community Read day for the Fall.

Betsy and Maggie met for Business Appeal letters 135 businesses will be getting out tomorrow morning. Goal to send it out in the fall.

Restaurant Night will be on March 15, Ck Pearl 4:30-9:30- excludes raw bar- people need to mention the Friends of EES. Bravo will be the following Tuesday- 10%.

Betsy reminded everyone that Friends of EES is a fundraising organization if anything and we've not been able to meet our goals in recent years.

Taxes for 2020 were extended and approved but taxes have not been done for 2021. Heather reached out to Francesca for information.

Bylaws- will be updated by end of school year.

Jessica will be working with Jenna Ware at NEB to work on a grant. Hopper Fund due May 15th- Jessica reached out to Essex Rotary Club and they will connect her to money composer in residence hoping to cover the \$600.

Mr. Carpenter said the students love the Composer in Residence program. Daisy Nell reached out and Mr Carpenter and it just doesn't look like we have the funds to bring her in. Hoe down could be used as a fundraiser and possibly charge people \$5 a ticket. The amount of Daisy Nell

\$2400 Betsy feels confident that we could raise the money or raise a grant for her to come in 2023. MASS Cultural could be another idea for funding.

Potato Hill Poetry- 3,4,5 grades- funding amount is \$2,000, 8 classroom sessions, we'd have 6 classes instead for around \$1,800 with no necessary dates. We need to apply for grant funding. Samantha has an idea of who we can reach out to for potential funding. Ms. Silag mentioned Spaulding Grant, Manchester Essex Rotary Club. Ms. Silag was introduced to Jessica Torcicollo.

We are still looking for a secretary. Betsy will also be looking for a Clam Race helper and a social media coordinator.

Playground dedication ceremony on May 20th has been postponed until the fall.

Friends of EES is looking to schedule Whalemobile toward the end of the school year.

Prior Meeting minutes approved.

Approve Meeting Minutes 8:59p meeting adjourned.