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**Friends of Essex Elementary School Meeting Minutes**

February 8, 2024

**Attendance:**

In Person: Sheila McAdams, Principal EES; Mandy Beausoleil, Co-President FoEES; Betsy McKeen, Co-President FoEES; Maggie Gleason, VP FoEES; Ashley Fields, 4th grade teacher

Zoom: Rachel McInnis, Social Media Coordinator; Hilary Mattison, Enrichment Coordinator; Heather Harrell, Treasurer; Jessica Torcicollo, Grant Writer; Brandy Markey, parent; Bradley Cooke, Secretary

Maggie Gleason called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

**Welcome/remarks from Mrs. McAdams**

* ‘Winter Walk to school’ happened 2/7/24
* 100th Day of school activities happened for kindergarten
* Global Play Day 2/7/24 allows for the unstructured fun for the kids and lets them
* Professional Development working accreditation process
* 3-5 grades DEI and cultural competency
	+ 1st graders reading a book about accessing things ADA
	+ community meeting will have 1st graders
	+ adaptive ski equipment to try out, and other adaptations
* Next week conferences, it’s recommended that parents meet with teachers, but most teachers have reached out to parents if conferences should take priority
* 4th grade tutoring for math DESI (after school) and small group for reading for 5th grade (during day), and some groups for 3rd graders (during day), kids are selected from the data that they have but if there is parental concern they can bring that to their teachers
* Chronically absent kids (10% absences) will start to make the schools get dinged by the State and can affect the school’s report card for the state

**Remarks from Staff Member**

* Teachers are appreciative of the stipends
* Scholastic rewards were tricky to use, the teachers had a hard time getting it to work and only the titles that were available could be chosen, not necessarily the books that the teachers really wanted.

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes from our January meeting were approved.

**Enrichment Update**

* K
* 1st grade asked for an author visit just for them
* 2nd grade is fairly full
* 3rd grade fairly full
* 4th
* 5th grade
	+ As part of their end-of-year celebration, would be having a joint 2 day field trip with MMES 5th (some activities at MMES and some at Essex ShipBuilding Museum)
	+ Freedom Trail and State House with both schools
	+ Combined 5th grade play
* Whole school - Audubon k-4
* Need to donate to Mass Audubon $200 - A motion was made to approve this donation by Betsy McKeen and was seconded by Mandy Beaeusoleil.

**Grant Writer’s Update**

Spaulding Education Fund Grant $10,000 application?

* Claudette put in for printmaking
* Richard carpenter put in for daisy nell funds
* Samantha put some in for MMES and EES funds for library
* Phones will be updated to allow for two external call- for safety needs
* Kits for math for every grade- Grant Fletcher?

Spaulding Education Fund is looking for EES parents to join the board

To Apply for:

1. Hooper Fund for Community Read for 2024-2025
2. Cape Ann Community Foundation- Composer in Residence? not the type of grant that we can depend on every year- funded through the Cape Ann license plates- due middle of March or April

**Treasurer’s Update**

* Heather was not able to check the banks for money market rates
* Heather was not able to look into Amazon for the nonprofit
* Presented the P&L report YTD for FY 2023-2024

**Polar Plunge Recap**

* Made a little less than expected (total for 2024 was $800) but the PD didn’t charge us so it was pure profit.

**Community Read Recap “What to Do With a Problem”**

* All went well and the event was well-received.

**Flashlight Tag Recap**

* Funds raised $466 went towards the student activity fund - pays for things such as bus fees for field trips and year books for 5th grade

**Messy Art Night Planning**

* Flyers are complete; sign up genius being planned, everything is going smoothly in the planning

**Book Fair Planning**

* May 23rd & 24th
* Beverly Book Shop

**Restaurant Night Planning with a Read-In/Movie Night at EES/YMCA collaboration**

* Vita Bella Feb 27th - EES will host a read in night for parents to do a drop off
	+ The Y will be contacted to see if they will be able to do the babysitting
* Woodman’s April 30th

**Staff Appreciation Lunch Planning**

* Grades K-2 hosting March 12

**District-Wide STEAM Night Planning**

* It was in the newsletter last week
* 1st grade students are making musical instruments!

**Poetry Night Planning**

* April- EES and MMES have a parent that is helping; each school will be asked to donate about $200. Will include 4th and 5th grade students.

**FoEES Parent Survey Planning**

* Need to decide when to send this out; perhaps after vacation.

**Art Fundraiser Update**

* Will circle back with Ms. Yutkins about this.

**Dispensary Update**

* It’s complicated- Betsy reached out to Brendon Zubricki and he said that there are legislative issues in the state regarding dispensaries so there isn’t an answer yet.

**Venmo Update**

* We will continue to look into the charity account but it needs to be attached to a personal account with a cell phone and an email address.
* One idea would be to have a Charity Venmo account for each treasurer that comes through (per Venmo when a new treasurer takes over they can’t transfer the account but rather the old one needs to be closed a new one opened) and to name them something like @friendsofees2024to2027 or something similar so parents can find it.

**Teacher stipend fulfillments update**

* Mr Marche asked for some PE equipment and this was ordered; a second order was placed to include an item that was missed on the first order.
* Ms. Featherstone
* Maggie will make a flyer for teachers who have not used their stipends yet

**New funding requests**

* No new funding requests

Maggie made a motion to adjourn at 8:56pm and Betsy seconded.

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Next meeting: Thursday March 7th, 2024 at 7:30 pm in person and on Zoom.