**PTO MEETING MINUTES**

**February 6, 2017**

**ATTENDEES:**

Suzanne Bediz, Theresa Whitman, Carla Christensen, Gina Hatfield, Melissa McNeilly, Amanda Kuhl, Kim Field, Carol Mondello, Francesca Segarra, and Natasha Taylor.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:**

This meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Co-Presidents Theresa Whitman and Suzanne Bediz.

**ENRICHMENT UPDATE:**

The Community Read update from Deanna Pierpan, was presented by Theresa Whitman, the book “Gaston” was selected by Manchester PTO, and there were concerns that it might not be as appropriate for older children at a higher reading level. The book was reviewed by Dr. Roberts and others, and it was confirmed that it was not a good fit. The Hooper Fund Grant covers the Community Read program, it will need to be determined if they will still cover the purchases if we do not choose the book which was originally decided upon. Four books by Dr. Seuss were reviewed by all in attendance; thoughts were that the book could possibly be tied in directly to Dr. Seuss’ Birthday. Total original request was just over $2500 for Memorial and EES. Theresa will champion the Community Read rollout. Motion was made by Francesca Segarra, Treasurer, and passed to bring forth “Hunches in Bunches” by Dr. Seuss for Dr. Roberts to review. Kim Field introduced that the Maritime Gloucester Grant has ran out, and if it will be possible for the PTO to now fund the class visits, so that they may continue.

**MESSY ART NIGHT UPDATE:**

Natasha Taylor, Volunteer, reported the confirmed parties for the night, these include, Essex Shipbuilding, clay sculpting, crochet, design your own scent, watercolors, jewelry making, and metal sculpting. Eleven total parties have been confirmed. Amanda Kuhl reported on volunteers and, at this time, there are vacancies for all positions.

**STEM NIGHT UPDATE:**

Stem night is planned for March 31. Carla Christensen reported that Jenna Ware has booked 20 participants and they are quite diverse this year. Some participants will be The Whale Mobile, The Ocean Alliance, STEM Beginnings, Crazy Chemistry, The Food Project, Appleton Farms, 3D Printing, and M/E Robotics Team. Jenna requesting if we are able to use the stage area on this night, this will be cleared with Mr. Carpenter so that no musical instruments will be present. Amanda Kuhl volunteered to arrange the food for the vendors. There was also discussion regarding replacing the ‘take apart room’ with a STEM challenge room, filled with cardboard, recycled items, tape, etc.

**AUCTION SEASON UPDATE:**

Melissa McNeilly reported that a fair amount of donations have been received, approximately 80 at this time, totaling approximately $5000 in value, if they all go for full price at auction. Woodman’s has been arranged for the pickup party, on Friday, April 7, 2017. Raffle will be two Skylark Kayaks, through ERBA; the paddles and lifejackets were graciously donated by ERBA. School outreach will take place starting February 14, 2017 and be included in Backpack Thursday the February 16, 2017.

**APPEAL UPDATE:**

Francesca Segarra, Treasurer reported there were no updates.

**FUNDING REQUESTS:**

No funding requests in need of approval.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The plan for our springtime meetings will be to address the PTO calendar and integrate better planning and organization for 2017/2018.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05pm.

Prepared by Gina Hatfield, EES PTO Secretary.