**PTO MEETING MINUTES**

**November 7, 2016**

**Attendees:**

Jennifer Roberts, Deanna Pierpan, Francesca Segarra, Gina Hatfield, Melanie Healey, Carol Mondello, Theresa Whitman, Suzanne Bediz, Chrissie Twombly, Amanda Kuhl and Sophia Johansson.

**Welcome/Introductions:**

This meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm. Francesca Segarra, Treasurer, led meeting in the absence of Kendra Dott, PTO Vice President, as President position remains vacant.

**Hello from Principal Jennifer Roberts:**

Dr. Roberts discussed details of the PBIS program, specifically how it is managed. Deborah Welling, EES School Psychologist, is facilitating 18 groups of children who were identified through the school’s new screening tool, DESSA, as needing support in specific areas of skill development. One area of focus is that as a community we are using common language techniques, such as using the term ‘unexpected behavior’, this technique will help with the transition of these lessons at home. The ‘no homework’ trial is underway, very few negative comments have been communicated to Dr. Roberts. Fifth grade teachers have also noted that there seems to be no decline in student’s test scores and capabilities in math. Math has been the center of most of the concerns in the trial. Children are also reporting that they feel less stressed about their work.

**Appeal Update:**

Francesa Segarra reported on the fall appeal. $1459 has been raised from family contributions. The appeal figures are down from where we were last year. 18 families have contributed this year as opposed to 28 families at this time last year. Business sponsorship is roughly the same, $1400 as opposed to $1500, 6 businesses total have contributed. $2895 combined total, thus far, has been raised. Francesca Segarra suggested that we should offer free advertising to business instead of simply sending out the appeal letters. For next year, we should review the business appeal list and possibly use Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce as a resource for the businesses we include in the appeal.

**Hoedown Wrap-Up:**

Erin Holmes was unable to attend meeting, details were forwarded by email to Gina Hatfield, who presented on her behalf. The night was a considered successful and enjoyable for the children. Some feedback received was that some of the dances were difficult for the children to follow and it took a bit too long to ‘get going’. Erin suggested we might want to consider no snacks next year, might have been too much of a distraction from the event.

**Restaurant Night Out Update:**

This event will be held on the 17th of November. There is a similar event on the 10th of November being held by the library. The event will be held at Shea’s, 20 guests minimum will be needed. The event will be promoted on our FB page, as well as in The Buzz.

**Update Info Request:**

Attendees of the meeting were reminded to forward all info to the PTO secretary for inclusion in The Buzz. Also, any items which would benefit from posting on FB, should be forwarded to Chrissie Twombly.

**Funding Requests:**

The in classroom alternative seating has been ordered that Mrs. Curcuru requested. The five seats will be trialed and the rest will be ordered if teachers all agree they are beneficial. Another funding request has been received by Ms. Jordan regarding chairs she had purchased over the summer, she would prefer reimbursement for those specific ones, rather than the ones for her classroom that Mrs. Curcuru had requested. Motion passed to fulfill Ms. Jordan’s request. We will deduct the chairs for Ms. Jordan’s class from the further Amazon order. Suzannne Bediz has suggested that we ensure reminders are displayed at the PTO Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

**Open Positions:**

PTO President Position vacancy discussed at length. Motion was passed to vote in new PTO Co-Presidents Theresa Whitman and Suzanne Bediz. Thank you to both for volunteering to fill this very important vacancy on the board. Melissa Cook agreed to take over as chair of the PTO Auction so that Theresa can focus on the Co-Presidency role. Also, the PTO Vice President position should be clarified regarding vacancy, if needed this will be posted to FB and promoted through The Buzz, as well. The Enrichment Team has not filled their vacancies as of yet, Deanna Pierpan is currently covering the majority of that workload. Those vacancies will be promoted as well.

**Adjourned at 8:14pm.**

Prepared by Gina Hatfield, EES PTO Secretary