

PTO Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2015

Attendees:

Stacie Capotosto, Kendra Dott, Kathy McKinnon, Sarah Wolf, Jennifer Roberts, Michelle Campagna, Melissa Glorieux, Amanda Kuhl, Carol Mondello, Theresa Whitman

Welcome/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes as amended from the December 1, 2014 PTO meeting.

Principal's Update:

"Kids returned from break focused and ready to learn." Commented on productive day, the calm feeling and positive response to returning to routine.

Exploring the theme of communication. A broad topic identified as a struggle at times whether it is teacher to staff or parent to teacher. Seeking to survey and open dialog about effective forms of communication, what is not working, highlight existing processes functioning well and examine what possibly to add or change to enhance communication at EES.

Reminded parents of her blog and encouraged sign up through the MERSD website. Offered to answer questions from parents.

A parent asked what happens if a child requires more testing or IEP? How is it facilitated? Dr. Roberts explained parents could identify issues and request further attention, however such learning gaps are usually picked through the testing measures in place. Determining the need for an IEP is a process, which takes into consideration testing outcomes and rate of growth/improvement in any given area. IEP is not always necessary. It can be more appropriate for a student to be identified for a WIN group for additional academic support.

MCAS? MCAS start in the 3rd grade. They are an in-school assessment testing in the areas of language arts, mathematics and science/technology. All students are required to participate. Results demonstrate the knowledge of students, but also reflect the performance of the school and district. The state is currently looking at the MCAS versus the PARCC.

Open Positions:

Book Fair Coordinator: Run 2-day event; taking place this year March 5th & 6th

Auction Marketing Coordinator: Temporary position; January start through late March; write and disseminate press releases, print and distribute posters, schedule Town Hall sign usage and put up the notice, schedule students in the zone for opening and closing days, explore other marketing strategies; knowledge of QR code usage helpful, but not necessary; could be a shared position if two people want to work together

Media Coordinator: Send email blasts, create flyers, notifies local media as indicated, posts signage, maintains online updates for PTO sponsored events

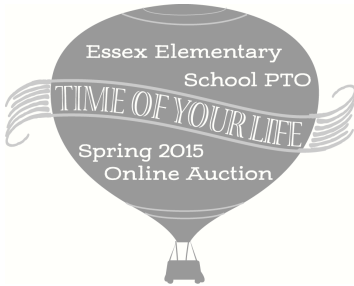
Enrichment Coordinator (open board position for the 2015-2016 academic year): Can shadow Sarah Wolf this year; organizer of enrichment committee and activities; grant writing a plus

Messy Art Night Update:

Melissa reviewed the event, taking place February 6th from 5-7pm. Discussed cost to be \$5 per child with a cap of \$15 per family. Multiple artists already on board. Discussed what is an appropriate amount of stations given time and space. Art Haven is bringing 3 pottery wheels. Snacks and water to be sold. A volunteer request will be forwarded via Signup Genius. Will need artist helpers/dedicated runners, floaters, snack table, front desk, set up and clean up. Participants are encouraged to bring their own smocks. Considering getting t-shirts to sell. Need to get food for artists. Kathy and Melissa to divide media list to promote the event.

Auction Update:

Amanda shared the current auction ideas and format formulated by the co-chairs and committee. Explored other website options, however staying with the same company who has updated their site. We are able to customize with our logo (see below). The goal is to raise \$18,000. The auction will be a 10-day online event to close with a cocktail pick up party on Friday, April 10th at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum. Exploring the ideas of raffles, double down opportunities, etc. J. Barrett Realty is exclusively sponsoring the EES Auction. The theme is *The Time of Your Life*.



Clam Race Date Discussion for 2015:

Kristen Bixby is committee chair, but was unable to attend this meeting. Stacie proposed dates and new format to the Clam Race. The race is returning to the 5K format. Seeking to hold the event Friday, September 18th. Planning to have Flatbread pizza and tables to promote area business/happening/health information. Discussed having this family fun night in lieu of the Welcome Back Night and incorporating the dunk tank into this event.

Teacher Request Update:

The 10 educational hand held devices requested, along with batteries, have been purchased and are use currently.

Enrichment Update:

Reminder Marvelous Marvin is coming to EES for Friday Night Family Night January 9, 2015 from 5:00-6:00pm. It is a free event in the cafeteria. The Essex Cultural Committee grant is paying for Marvelous Marvin. Upcoming events include the Shipbuilding Museum trip and Acton Discovery Museum for the 3rd grade. The Spaulding Fund is assisting with the 4th and 5th grade Kite education at the end of the year.

PTO Meetings:

PTO meetings are held the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Next PTO meeting is Monday, February 2, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Staff Room at EES.

Adjourned at 8:32pm.

Prepared by Kathleen McKinnon, EES PTO Secretary