

# PTO Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2015

## Attendees:

Stacie Capotosto, Kathy McKinnon, Rebecca Davis, Sarah Wolf, Jennifer Roberts, Michelle Campagna, Melissa Glorieux, Sue Hardy, Diane Corrao, Carol Mondello, Deanna Pierpan

## Welcome/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm followed by introductions of attendees.

## Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes as amended from the January 5, 2015 PTO meeting amending Dr. Roberts' responses regarding IEP and MCAS. No meeting minutes from February. No meeting was held due to snow. The board was unable to reschedule this meeting due to school vacation and additional snow.

## Book Fair:

The book fair is taking place Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will reopen during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade pizza and ice cream social Friday night. The structure will remain the same, as initiated in 2011, where the PTO reimburses Sue Hardy for equivalent 25% cash profit of the total product sales to purchase bound books for the EES library. We will opt for the 50% in Scholastic dollars for faculty purchases for EES resource/classrooms.

## Principal's Update:

- MCAS: the state extended the window for testing by one week due to the snow; districts to decide
- Health and Wellness Fair at EES: Wednesday from 8:45-11:45am coordinated by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Collins
- Staff focus: exploring how to engage, recognize and support high achieving students; sharing best practices
- Communication Committee: meeting for the first time this Thursday to open dialog around school to home communication with the goal to identify effective strategies and highlight what is not working; parents on this committee include Ingrid Renzi, Marla Royle, Eileen Durey and Lisa Etna; will report back to the School Council

## Open Positions:

Chrissie Twombly accepted the position of Media Coordinator who will work with event chairs and the board to create flyers and updates for the newsletter, website and other media outlets to promote PTO events.

**Still seeking an Enrichment Coordinator** (open board position for the 2015-2016 academic year): shadow Sarah Wolf for the rest of this year; organize enrichment activities in collaboration with the enrichment committee

## Messy Art Night Recap:

174 messy artists participated in this event raising almost \$1300 with a profit of about \$400. T-shirts were "a hit."

## Auction Update:

Donations are coming in. The calling team is following up on donors who previously supported the auction. "Don't want to leave money on the table." Individuals can contact Amanda or Theresa if able to outreach 5-10 businesses by phone or in person. Raffle tickets are going on sale for a 14 foot black Lund with trailer and motor along with a Fin and Feather gift card, safety gear and one-year mooring off Conomo Point. It is \$50 a ticket and only 250 are being sold. They will go on sale during the book fair Friday evening. They will also be for sale on the auction website or by emailing the PTO

auction committee. The committee is asking for EES families to spread the word and forward the auction link to family and friends. The goal is \$18,000.

There will be a wrap up party on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Essex Shipbuilding Waterline Center. The tickets are \$20 each and limited. Ticket will also be available online, by contacting the auction committee or the night of the book fair. This will also function as a pick up party. There will be music, upscale hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The boat package raffle will be drawn during this event.

#### **Teacher Request Update:**

-Donna Smith requested about \$60 for fruit for the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair, which was supported.

-Reviewed reimbursement for clay for Colonial Day.

-Nicole Curcuru requested \$325 for reading homework bags. General support for the idea but requires further exploration. No vote at this time.

#### **Enrichment Update:**

Zen Ties by Jon J. Muth was identified as the next community read.

#### **STEM Update:**

So far there are about 15 tables/presenters, including MIT Explorers, Mathnasium, iRobot, Artbotics, Einstein Workshop, Club Intervention, the Whale Mobile, Mad Science, Wicked Cool Kids, MIT Society of Women Engineers, NOAA, Essex County Greenbelt, Maritime Gloucester, Mike Christoforo and Brian Scheckles. Seeking additional technology based activity/presenter. Will need 4 volunteers for the take apart room, 2 at the front desk, 2 floaters and a clean up crew. Kathy and Stacie to coordinate food for the event (sandwiches, chowder, chips, salad, drinks and cupcakes). Received a grant for \$1420. Current costs at \$1370. The chair sought to extend the current budget to cover the costs for presenter supplies, booklets, etc. The board agreed as long as it was not excessive.

#### **Misc:**

Briefly discussed the upcoming town meetings in Manchester (April with an override needed) and Essex (May) to pass the school budget. PTO members encouraged individuals to spread the word, register to vote and attend meetings.

#### **PTO Meetings:**

PTO meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Next PTO meeting is Monday, April 6, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Staff Room at EES.

Adjourned at 8:16pm.

*Prepared by Kathleen McKinnon, EES PTO Secretary*