

PTO Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2015

Attendees:

Stacie Capotosto, Kathy McKinnon, Kendra Dott, Sarah Wolf, Rachel Bagenstose, Michelle Campagna, Chrissie Twombly, Theresa Whitman, Amanda Kuhl, Deanna Pierpan

Welcome/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm and began with introductions of all attendees.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes as amended from the March 2, 2015 PTO meeting amending "fro" to "for" before "Colonial Day" and capitalizing "Fin and Feather."

STEM Night Recap:

Complete recap was unavailable as the STEM Chair was not present. Attendees engaged in a brief discussion of the event. Favorable opinions shared regarding the presenters and format. Notes for next year: (1) have a donation box and (2) consider charging nonresidents/families out of the district for this event or establishing an entry fee.

Enrichment Update:

-Gist family is organizing a field trip for grade 3 to Brick End Farm in Hamilton. PTO will fund the bus. The rest of the trip is being donated.

-*Zen Ties* was purchased through the March book fair for next year's community read. Discussed the great themes in this book including connecting with ones community, connecting with the elderly, establishing relationships and being good to the environment.

Auction Update:

Four days left! The online portion of the auction is ahead as compared to this time last year. More community members are participating than in previous years. We still have 61 items with no bids. The Auction Committee plans to use email blasts, Backpack Thursday and Facebook to push the auctions and highlight items along with having students hold signs in the zone. In addition to winners being able to claim items at the wrap up party, auction items will be available for pick up Friday in the upper parking lot after school, Saturday, or winners can make arrangements for delivery over the weekend.

Auction Party Update:

About 40 tickets sold to date for the wrap up party on Friday, April 9th at the Essex Shipbuilding Waterline Center. Capacity is 100. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased online or by contacting Diane or Stacie. Encouraging tickets to be purchased in advance. Dave Alger is donating his time and equipment as the DJ. Chebacco Market is providing the bar. Will need a bank for the cash bar. Volunteers are needed to pick up food from local restaurants donating the day of the event. Call Diane if able to help.

Boat Raffle Update:

SOLD OUT. All 250 tickets priced at \$50 each have been sold.

Teacher Request Update:

As discussed last meeting, Mrs. Curcuru requested \$325 for reading homework bags (\$6 each) for a pilot program with the third grade. The PTO board encouraged Mrs. Curcuru to have the reading specialists resubmit the request. The PTO

also discussed the funding of this pilot more appropriate in the fall as there is less than three months left to this school year.

PTO informed EES faculty members are seeking to fund an additional ipad cart. The current cart in use is 1.5 years old and contains 30 ipads. This is well utilized by our EES students, which we have about 300. Faculty would ultimately like to have three carts total for increased student access, however are seeking to fund one additional at this time. The ipads are used for library, math, language skills, etc. The cost of the cart with ipads is about \$16,000. PTO will further consider sharing the cost of funding this academic enrichment in conjunction with other sources like Spaulding.

Clam Race/Welcome Back Night Update:

Event taking place on September 18, 2015. Kristen Bixby, Clam Race Chair, has been working with Jen Tolo to gather information about previous Clam Races. Plan is to combine aspects of Welcome back night (dunk tank) for a fun family night at EES. Anyone interested in volunteering can attend the upcoming committee meeting at Kristen's house Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7pm.

Open Positions:

Still seeking an Enrichment Coordinator (open board position for the 2015-2016 academic year; able to shadow Sarah Wolf for the rest of this school year; organizer of enrichment activities for EES in collaboration with the Enrichment Committee; seeks grant funding for EES activities/experiences supported by the EES PTO). This opening will be highlighted in the next PTO Update newsletter.

PTO Meetings:

PTO meetings are held the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30pm. However, the next PTO meeting is Monday, May 11, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Staff Room at EES. The first Tuesday of the month conflicts with Town Meeting.

Adjourned at 7:52pm.

Prepared by Kathleen McKinnon, EES PTO Secretary