

PTO Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2015

Attendees:

Stacie Capotosto, Kathy McKinnon, Sarah Wolf, Amanda Kuhl, Carol Mondello, Jenn Cort, Jennifer Roberts, Michelle Campagna

Welcome/Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:41pm and started with introductions of those in attendance.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes:

A motion was passed to approve the minutes from April after the omitting a typo ("f") in the text. It was also approved to amend the previous minutes from March, as the name of the farm was incorrect/unknown at the time.

Principal Update/Q&A:

Dr. Roberts announced faculty members Jane Clark and Nancy Adams are retiring. An interview committee is conducting a search to fill these positions and actively reviewing applications.

A faculty committee has formed to explore a system approach for student behavior mirroring RTI. The pilot will focus on behaviors such as inattentiveness, anxiety and social difficulty.

MCAS are plugging along and students are doing well.

Recently EES hosted guests interested in the Math Workshop model. They visited classrooms to observe and received feedback directly from students regarding their experiences. Student expressed "never feeling bored," "no one getting left behind," benefiting from activities in stations and greater ability to access help as needed.

Teacher Request Update:

PTO was informed Mr. BT submitted the paperwork for the Spaulding grant to supply the ipad cart. A decision on this funding should be known by the June meeting.

Courtyard Committee Update:

The PTO was notified the Committee Chair, Hunter Jay, resigned. Discussed the plan previously presented by the Committee and the challenges working in this space with limited access. A motion was passed not to fill this position and disband this committee as this area of the school to be maintained by faculty and volunteers outside the PTO.

Open Positions:

School Council Seats = 2 parent representative seats are open to work on the school improvement plan; the Council meets the first Monday of the month starting in October from 3:15-4:15pm (usually the same day as PTO)

Boxtops Coordinator = a parent is needed to collect sheets/boxtops from classrooms and the drop off drawer near the kindergarten classes, submit and coordinate with this nationwide program

Family & Business Appeal Coordinators = 2-person team to review, edit and send the appeal letters to supporters, community businesses and EES families

Enrichment Coordinator = open board position for the 2015-2016 academic 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; coordinates community read

Enrichment Update:

Enrichment had a budget of \$22,000 this academic year. After receiving approximately \$4,000 in grant funding the Committee reports about \$1870 leftover.

Auction Update:

The auction efforts raised \$28,575 this year between the online auction and boat raffle. Positive feedback received on the new website design. The Committee was pleased with the decision not to change to options such as Bidding For Good as this would have not been cost effective. Theresa Whitman was announced as next year's Auction Chair. Attendees acknowledged Amanda Kuhl's hard work, effort and dedication over the years making the auctions so successful. Thank you Amanda!

Playground Committee Update:

This year the Committee has purchased umbrellas, jump ropes, sand toys, balls and hula-hoops. Still need to purchase additional supplies like umbrella stands. A motion was passed to increase the playground budget up to \$300.

Clam Race/Welcome Back Night Update:

Clam Race Chair Kristen Bixby has created a web domain www.essex5K.org which is linked to the EES PTO website. Runners can use this page to learn more about this event taking place on September 18, 2015 and sign up.

After further discussion it was decided to separate the Clam Race from Welcome Back Night. Given the amount of runners and families from outside the EES community it was considered a liability to have the dunk tank and would not have the time/space for families to reconnect after the summer. WBN to be held Thursday, September 3, 2015 from 5:30-7:30pm. PTO to have the dunk tank attraction and supply free pizza. Stacie Capotosto and Kathy McKinnon to co-chair the event. Amanda Kuhl and Sarah Wolf agreed to head the food subcommittee. Plan to utilize the board to man this event. It was discussed to approach the high school baseball and softballs teams to assist with the dunk tank.

PTO Meetings:

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

Adjourned at 8:34pm.

Prepared by Kathleen McKinnon, EES PTO Secretary