**EES PTO MEETING MINUTES**

**March 6, 2017**

**ATTENDEES:**

Suzanne Bediz, Theresa Whitman, Melissa McNeilly, Sue Hardy, Jennifer Roberts, Francesca Segarra, Chrissie Twombly, Carla Christensen, Carol Mondello, Jim Zaremba, Gina Hatfield, Amanda Kuhl, and Ann Cameron.

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:**

This meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Co-Presidents Theresa Whitman and Suzanne Bediz.

**HELLO FROM DR ROBERTS:**

Dr. Roberts began with a discussion focusing on the Community Read rollout. Jeannine Stanley has offered to assist and will now champion the book choice process.

Every two years, the district conducts a large survey regarding the school improvement plan. In between the larger survey years, smaller and less detailed surveys are sent to parents regarding progress in the plan. Dr. Roberts reported that only 19 parents responded to this survey. The results were overwhelmingly positive. Dr. Roberts also met with a representative from Endicott College, they have educator clubs for aspiring teachers, and the representative offered that some undergrad students would attend and help with STEM night.

**SCHOOL UPDATE:**

Ann Cameron, on school committee, presented with a discussion regarding budget decisions and voting. Ann is intending on raising the awareness of elementary school level parents, in regards to the type of budget we currently have and proposed possible changes. A ‘carry forward’ budget was just passed by the school committee. The population is declining and there are concerns that the budget will be lowered. Manchester Memorial is in need of complete overhaul. EES desires to extend the life of the current building. Budget vote by Manchester finance committee, 2 of 9 voted against, 6 voted for. The two votes against are those which are in favor of changing the way the budget is constructed. These changes could ultimately result in less overall funding.

**STEM NIGHT UPDATE:**

Jenna Ware has changed the planned two hour block to include an extra half hour as the mobile whale exhibit traditionally turns children away due to time constraints. The extra time will help ensure that all children will be able to enter the exhibit. The planning is going very well, all exhibitors have been confirmed and the catering has been arranged for them, as well. Carla Christensen updates that the ‘Project Build-It’ room planning is going well. Theresa Whitman is championing the collection of supplies for this room.

**AUCTION UPDATE:**

Melissa McNeilly reported that the auction donations have slowed down recently. Only a small number of families have donated. The pickup party has changed to Friday April 7, 6pm-10pm, at Woodman’s. Raffle has been organized by Theresa Whitman. Ticket cost will be $50 each, winner will be drawn at the pickup party. Volunteers needed to complete follow up calls to parties which have not answered the donation requests.

**ENRICHMENT UPDATE/DISCUSSION:**

Deanna Pierpan advised the group that the Community book read book, Hunches in Bunches, by Dr. Seuss, was ordered as the replacement book.

**MESSY ART NIGHT RECAP:**

Carla Christensen reported that the night was successful. Nine total artist tables were running, and were never overcrowded. All notes for the night will be kept on file.

**BOOK FAIR RECAP:**

Susan Hardy, school librarian, reported that the goal was set for almost $6000. Approximately $5800 was raised. Some specifics include that $183 was raised by ‘lunch with Dr. Roberts’, the fundraising total was $680. Susan also noted that money raised translated into 56 new books into teachers classrooms. Mrs. Hardy suggested changing coin challenge and the Dr. Roberts lunch raffle to earlier times. Mrs. Hardy presented the reward options from Scholastic books, a decision will be made regarding the best option, after referencing meeting minutes from the book fair from 2015/2016 school year.

**FUNDING REQUESTS:**

All fourth and fifth grade teachers have submitted a request for a magazine subscription from Scholastic, for all students in those grades for school year 2017/2018, this request totals $750. Further information will be obtained by Mrs. Hardy. The second funding request from Mrs. Dwyer and Ms. Kelly are for ‘Go Noodle Plus’, for $10/month for each classroom, the total is estimated to be $80 for rest of this school year. This funding request was passed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:12p.m.**

**Prepared by Gina Hatfield, EES PTO Secretary.**