

## **Exeter Elementary PTO Minutes: January 8, 2020**

**Attendance:** Allison Battles, Heidi Merrow, Val Castonguay, Emily York, Jennifer Gardes, Nicole Mazur, Michelle Harvell, Cyndy Smith, Robert Delorie, Maureen Brown, Deanna Donnelly, Beth Cadorette, Sarah Dewitt, Gina Gardner, Melissa Guy

**Motion to approve minutes:** Cyndy Smith second Nicole Mazur

**Volunteers:** We are seeking volunteers to assist with composting at MSS. We are looking for two volunteers who can be available twice a week. Eight shifts have been filled but we need more help. Composting will begin on February 3rd and will take place between 11-1:15. An informational notice will be sent out soon for the Get Fit in May road race volunteers. On April 15th, the formal sign up will be sent out. Also, we will be setting up a table during conferences in hopes of getting others to volunteer their time at the race.

**Treasurer's report/Val Castonguay:** As of the end of November, there is \$26,000 in the budget but there is a lot that needs to be paid for. Square 1 Art has earned the schools \$2,300 which will be added into the account. BoxTops has earned the schools \$1,200. Please note there is a two week time limit for scanning your receipts. Also, the account being used is Exeter Elementary. Restaurant night at Sea Dog generated \$250.

**Beth Cadorette/Vice Principal MSS:** The New Hampshire Audubon visited grade 2 with their animals. Techploration offered light and sound demonstrations for grade 1. Kevin Skarupa will be visiting with Kindergarten to support their unit on weather. Thank you to the PTO for supporting the purchase of I-pads. Each first and second grade teacher received a new one for their classroom. I-pads are much quicker and easier for students to use. Some special events that happened before Christmas vacation were as follows: Students participated in Image Making which supports creative writing in the classroom. This is part of a program called Picturing Writing. Kindergarten went to both Riverwoods and Water Street to a sing-a-long with the residents. Family Math Night will be on January 10th from 5:30 to 7:00. January 14th there will be a school board meeting at 6:30 at LSS. Report cards will be going out on January 24th.

We are using a new reporting system. This is a new way to document student growth.

**Deanna Donnelly/Vice Principal LSS:** After School Enrichment begins this week and drama will be starting next week. There will be a presentation called Break the Cycle of Worry. UNH ambassadors will be visiting LSS to do S.T.E.M. activities with students. The yearbook club has started.

**Cyndy Smith/LSS:** Fourth grade would like to thank the PTO for all the computers they have provided. Some things that are happening in fourth grade are: Mr. Schmitt will be starting maple sugaring soon, some classrooms will be raising trout and students will be doing volcano studies and using computers for research. Fifth grade will be doing mystery science, chemical reactions and spaceship earth.

**Nicole Mazur/Allison Battles/Fundraising:** We will be having our Teacher/staff raffle again this year. At this time, we have 35 responses which is a great start. Teachers and staff are mostly donating their time. There will be two winners each and students may bring a friend. Some examples include: donuts and cocoa, birthday on marquee, sports activities, lunch with a teacher/staff member. Last year, we raised \$3,000. We raised \$196.78 at the Sea Dog restaurant night. Sea Dog generously bumped our earning up to \$250. We will be having another restaurant night in April at Lexie's. Staff will receive 70% off if they order food during the school day. We have started to work on Teacher/Student kits for next year. Teachers will submit what they would like each student to start the school year with for supplies. These kits can be ordered online. We are looking into partnering with the CMS PTO president for the year 2021 to host the Harlem Wizards. This would earn our school a lot of money but there would also be a lot of work involved. We would need a dedicated committee to ensure all the work was being done for this event to be a success. We are still discussing involvement and there are many questions that need to be answered .

**Robert Delorie/T-shirts:** We are hoping to send out order forms by the end of January. One vendor being considered is Blue Dolphin. Pricing is still being discussed. Suggested pricing is \$10 for children and \$15 for

adults. It has also been suggested to offer a scholarship to provide t-shirts to students who cannot afford to purchase one. T-shirts will be available in sizes XS-XXL.

**MichelleHarvell/Yearbook:** The yearbook committee has had their first meeting. The fifth graders are having a contest for the cover design. The theme is different flags. The committee has received some photos from club activities. Fifth graders will get their yearbook at the D.A.R.E graduation. Yearbooks need to be ordered by May 11th. We will charge \$15 for each book giving the school a four dollar profit for the PTO. Parents can customize their child's yearbook online.

**SarahDewitt/Sustainability:** Well told goods/Uncommon goods are being sold locally and will potentially be selling maps of the race route at the Get Fit in May road race. They are putting their work on glassware, water bottles, cutting boards...They may add some items to our raffle table. Composting in both elementary schools will begin in February. Mr. Fox will be visiting MSS on Monday, January 27th and LSS on Friday, January 24th. They will be sharing information about the importance of composting and the how to of composting with students and staff. The Lunch Bunch group will be helping with our composting initiative. If families would like to view Mr. Fox's video, it is available on the Mr. Fox website.

**Allison Battles/Get Fit update:** We have 35 registered runners at this time. Mr. Fox will be composting at the event. We are hoping to get a donation of composting liners and compostable cups for race day. Lamprey River Screen Print will be our t-shirt vendor this year. There will be a t-shirt design contest for fifth graders. We are trying to get high school and college students to donate their time at the race. We will be getting a large cooler this year to sell our own ice cream so that the schools can keep the profits from the sales. The sponsorship committee has completed the sponsorship letter and is reaching out to sponsors at this time. We will be accepting raffle items this year. We have allocated \$500 for publicity in hopes of reaching more people and generating more interest in the race. The next Get Fit meeting is this Thursday at LSS in Mr. Schmitt's room.

**Other:** We are looking for a new treasurer for the PTO as Val Castonguay is stepping down. We may not need a BoxTop position as it is now done electronically.

**Motion to adjourn:** Cyndy Smith second Maureen Brown