

## ***Exeter Elementary PTO Minutes: February 13, 2019***

**Attendance:** Steve Adler, Allison Battles, Heidi Merrow, Jillian Burns, Michelle Harvell, Laura Wyskiel, Suzy Finniss, Kathleen Kirwin, Nicloe Mazur, Maureen Brown, Christiani Gatto, Robert Delorie, Cyndy Smith, Drew Bairstow

**CMS Expansion and Renewal Project:** Robert Delorie talked about the importance of the renewal project. CMS was built 20 years ago. The building is short 20 classrooms and needs the space to support programming in SPED, guidance, office space and places for teams to work. These work areas are shared by many people and others are displaced. The cafeteria is small and lunches must begin at 10:00 in order to feed all the students. On early release days, lunch begins at 8:45. CMS needs include 10 classrooms, a bigger cafeteria, an elevator, a gym double the size and more band space. At the bare minimum, CMS needs a larger cafeteria, 10 classrooms and an elevator. Please promote the needs of the school with the community and vote on March 12.

**Exeter Public Library Board of Trustees:** Laura Wyskeil spoke of the need for the expansion of the library. It is 30 years old, lacks accessibility, and the roof leaks. The library needs the roof expanded adding a glass wall overlooking the bridge and river, hopes to add additional meeting rooms to the mezzanine area, reinsulate parts of the library, repair windows and add LED

lighting. Please vote yes on Article 6. The cost be is 4.5 million. If the expansion was removed, it would be a million less.

**Motion to accept minutes:** Cyndy Smith and Maureen Brown

**Steve Adler/MSS:** January is a busy month for assessment.

First and second graders are taking the Star Test in both literacy and math. Also, they are taking localized assessments to make sure students are not falling through the cracks. Rich Cain has been speaking with teachers about ways to present to children the new safety procedures when having lock downs. MSS is participating in Read Across America week. We will have many guest readers in the library including politicians, firemen, police officers and news reporters. Family story hour is on Wednesday. We will have a magician promoting literacy. Thank you for the money for Wildlife Encounters which focused on adaptation. We also had a jump rope assembly featuring the Newmarket Hotshots. MSS is participating in a hygiene drive with St. Vincent D'Paul.

**Drew Bairstow/LSS:**

LSS is participating in various assessments. LSS has revamped their intervention offering extra support to students. They have been able to discharge 40% of students in math and 63% of students made accelerated growth in reading. The fourth graders are participating in NAEP. The LSS peacemakers support social and emotional learning. Students nominate

classmates for a day of training with the guidance counselor in a Restorative Justice Program. Teachers are observing their peers and discussing and sharing ideas. Students are walking laps around the playground in a walking program called Tour of NH. Every time they walk a lap they grab a foot to track how many miles walked per grade level. Students are participating in the Kids Heart Challenge and the money is due on Friday.

**Maureen Brown/MSS:** Many teachers have signed up for the raffle. The second grade is going to the Ipswich National Audubon and would like to say thank you for the money. It's a hands-on learning experience that supports classroom studies. Teachers are hoping for classroom recognition for collecting Box Tops rather than individual. When will be signing up to volunteer for Get Fit in May?

**Suzy Finniss/MSS:** Wildlife Encounters was engaging and educational.

**Cyndy Smith/LSS:** Third grade would like to thank the PTO for the Chrome Books. More children are given time to use them. Enrichment activities have ended and the new session will start soon. Students are collecting sap and are involved in the process. LSS is looking for volunteers to help with sap collection on the weekend. Angela Roe is the contact person.

**Nicole Mazzur:** The winners of the teacher /staff raffle will be announced the Friday before vacation. Students can also check

online to see if they won and teachers will be given a list of these students. Greg at the rec center has purchased licenses for showing movies. It was \$400 for new movies and \$200 for older movies. If we were to have a family movie night, we could charge only for concessions. This would be a nice way to involve all members of the community. Would April break be a good time to do this? Sunday matinee? Would a restaurant night be good in March? Sea Dog? Noodle Bar? During March Madness?

**Other:** Michelle is looking at a 40 page fifth grade yearbook costing \$11.99.

Fairtrade Caravan might be a fundraiser we could explore. Women from third world countries are selling their products.

Get Fit in May price for registration will increase and the sponsorship is moving along.

Kyme is working with her mom to get lunch bunch in the schools. She is working with Drew and Karla.

Karate International has distributed flyers in the schools. If anyone signs up they will give a donation to the PTO. They would do demonstrations in the school and give scholarships to students in need. They are very supportive.

The UNH Hockey fundraiser may not be right after Christmas next year. Also an earlier time might be better for younger students.

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