

Exeter Elementary PTO: Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Attendance: Allison Battles, Jillian Burns, Jacki Deshon, Suzy Finniss, Sarah DeWitt, Kimberly Myers, Heidi Merrow, Deanna Donnelly, Beth Cadorette, Melissa Guy, Cyndy Smith, Nora Garrity,

Nora Garrity/ Volunteer Coordinator: Two weeks before vacation, sign up will begin for volunteers for Get Fit in May. Teachers will be signing up first and then we will reach out for other volunteers. Kyme Myers is still looking for volunteers for lunch bunch. At this time, it is mostly community volunteers.

Chris Andriski: Exeter schools are exploring the idea for a later start for middle and high school students. They are looking for parental input and will be presenting this idea in April. They will be answering questions parents may have. Research shows that a later start for teenagers and adolescents results in fewer car accidents and higher academic achievement. A typical sleep pattern for these students is to fall asleep around 11:30 p.m. Therefore, starting school at 8:30-9:00 is recommended. There are many barriers to such a change including:

1. Elementary school children will need to start earlier.
2. There will be a bus shortage.
3. 155 students from Exeter could not attend Seacoast School of Technology.

4. After school activities will be impacted both in and outside of school.

5. Childcare will be a concern.

Portsmouth and Oyster River are doing this already. They are starting at 8:15 and 8:30. They have noticed an increase in dismissals and a slight increase in attendance for first period. Chris will come back in April to share what is happening with this initiative.

Motion to approve minutes: Suzy Finniss second Cyndy Smith

Beth Cadorette/MSS: Thank you to the community for its continuous support. The schools were well supported at voting. The teacher/staff raffle was successful and the children are receiving their prizes. Thank you to the teachers for offering these prizes. Read Across America took place prior to February vacation. There were daily themes and MSS had a story hour in the evening on February 20th. Second grade will be going to the Audubon and also maple sugaring. They will be learning more about the process of making maple syrup. First grade will be going to see The Berenstain Bears at the Portsmouth Music Hall and Wildlife Encounters will be coming to the school to support the curriculum's animal studies unit. Thank you to the PTO for supporting this enrichment. March 20th is Kindergarten registration night. Parents will visit the school and learn about our program. There will also be information about the screening that

takes place in June. March 21st is the beginning of after school enrichment. Some of the offerings include art, STEM, and running club which promotes our Get Fit in May road race. March 27th is a make up early release day.

Deanna Donnelly/LSS: Thank you to the voters for supporting our school system. March 27th students will begin taking SAS. Thank you for the money for the enrichment with the Museum of Science. It provided a hands on experience for the students. It was very impressive. Techsploration is coming to third grade for simple machines. LSS is looking at data to determine which students should be invited to an extended school year.

Cyndy Smith/LSS: We are pushing the Get Fit in May road race within the school. Mara Andriski is working hard to get students involved and excited. Students have been notified of the prizes they won for the teacher/staff raffle. Students have been participating in gathering sap. It looks as though we will get a good amount sap this year. All grades are involved. Thank you to the PTO for the enrichment money. Third grade will be going to the high school to see Jungle Book. Fourth grade will be going to the New Hampshire State House/Historical Society. They will visit the Hall of Flags. After School Enrichment starts March 14th. April 10th the drama club will present School of Rock.

Jacki Deshon/MSS: First grade thanks the PTO for the field trips and Wildlife Encounters.

Other: A volunteer is still needed to shadow the website administrator for the fall.

Motion to adjourn: Suzy Finniss second Cyndy Smith