

Exeter Elementary PTO Minutes: May 8,2019

Attendance: Deanna Donnelly, Allison Battles, Valerie Castonguay, Heidi Merrow, Nicole Mazur, Beth Cadorette, Maureen Brown, Sarah DeWitt, Cyndy Smith, Suzy Finniss

Motion to approve minutes: Maureen Brown second Nicole Mazur

Valerie Castonguay/Treasurer's report: Valerie stated the budget is doing well. We earned \$500 dollars for Sea Dog's restaurant night. We still have money coming in for the Get Fit road race. Flyers went home for paper registration for the road race so more people should be registering. There is some concern that the online registration is confusing making it look as though you must fundraise but that is not the case. There is \$32,000 in the bank right now which will set us up nicely for next year. We typically operate with a \$37,000 budget so having \$32,000 now is good. One of the boxes on the PTO's tax return was not checked for a nonprofit organization. The PTO has received a \$1,720 bill as a late filing fee. It was recommended that the PTO pay the amount rather than appealing this charge so as not to be charged interest.

Get Fit in May: The students at MSS have been talking about Get Fit in May in the library with Mrs. Kirwin in hopes of generating more interest. The Get Fit Pep rally was held May 8th MSS. This rally included songs, skits and proper race etiquette. The children are excited and could not wait to go home and inform their parents about the race. It is \$30 to register for the 5K now and \$35 the day of the race. Scholarships are available. The last Get Fit meeting to be held before the race will be on May 15th at 6:30 at LSS.

Beth Cadorette/MSS: Thank you for the luncheon on May 9th to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Grade 2 will be having their concert this week. Grade 1 had their concert right before April vacation and Kindergarten will have their concert on June 10 on the last day of school for Kindergarten students. Thank you PTO for supporting Ocean World with Ellen Gothel and Food Play for the whole school which encouraged healthy food choices. On early release day, teachers will be working on placement for the 2019-2020 school year. Move up days will be at the end of the year.

This allows children to meet their teacher for the next school year as well as their classmates. Open House will be on May 23rd from 6-7:30. Students will share their work with their families. The Book Fair will be set up that evening. MSS would like to request more technology from the PTO. 18 Chromebooks would be appreciated. This would increase the amount of access students have in their classrooms. It would cost \$275 per Chromebook. Also, MSS would like financial support from the PTO for the program Northeast Passage. This is part of the cultural enrichment budget. This program increases diversity awareness which is a school goal. They do these activities in P.E.

Deanna Donnelly/LSS: The Tiger Program is in the budget for next year for all grade levels. Also, money is allocated for technology and cultural enrichment all from PTO funds. Sugar shack funds must only be used for the sugar shack. Teachers will be asked what they would like for cultural enrichment. There was a gas leak on Lincoln Street. All turned out fine. Wednesday, May 15th was the second practice lock down for LSS. Teachers have been trained in the Alice program. They were given a scenario and had come up with a plan of action. The Get Fit Rally will be May 10th and the CMS meeting will be May 15th. Grade 5 will be having their concert on May 20th. The D.A.R.E graduation will be on May 24th. LSS/MSS will be celebrating their volunteers with a tea on June 5th. Grade 2 parents night will be on June 6th at 6:00. Step Up day will be held on June 7th and students will be able to meet their teacher and classmates for the next school year. CMS Step Up Day will be June 3rd. LSS is requesting money from the PTO to purchase 20 Chromebooks, the Tiger Program and Northeast Passage.

Suzy Finniss/MSS: Judy Pancoast did an excellent job and the kindergarten teachers are hopeful she can come back. Kindergarten went to Copal House Farm. Students paid \$3 each and the PTO paid for the buses. Thank you to the PTO. Kindergarten is excited for Get Fit pep rally.

Maureen Brown/MSS: Teachers are excited for the Teacher Appreciation luncheon. Thank you PTO. Students and teachers were excited about the fun run after the pep rally. Grade 2 has a walking field trip, a field trip to Great Bay Estuary and Odiorne Point to study tide pools. The signage for the Exeter water trail is ready. The signs include landscape, wetlands,

woodland habitats and all of this information can be accessed through the maps. Step Up Day is June 2nd for second graders to walk up to LSS and meet their new teacher and classmates. Box Tops could be going electronic.

Kathleen Kirwin/MSS Librarian: With the change in curriculum, we are restructuring the book collection to support classroom studies. Library will be doing more instruction with Kindergarten using technology. Kathleen posed the question: What can we spend the book fair money on? The E-Wallet will be introduced at this book fair. Children will be able to shop at library time using E-Wallet rather than cash. Students will be previewing and making a wish list for books during library time. Also, students and families can shop the night of Open House or shop online. We are looking for a few volunteers to help with the book fair.

Cyndy Smith/LSS: Students in grade 3 went to Legoland and had a Wax Museum on May 10th. Fifth grade students went to the Portsmouth symphony for a field trip. The field trip was interactive and the students got to play their recorders. Students in fourth grade participated in UNH farm days, reading carnival, a pancake breakfast in which a student from Pinkerton talked about starting his own sugar shack and had a presentation from author Max Barallier. Fifth grade also participated in the author visit. The book fair in the library will be happening soon.

Nicole Mazur: There will be a fundraising letter going home asking parents if they are interested in direct donation. If you have any ideas for fundraising, please send them to Nicole. The teacher appreciation luncheon is all set. Fundraising options for next year include: Square One Art, Box Tops, Karate International and restaurant night.

Nora/Volunteer Coordinator: Open positions for Get Fit include: Apparel, Marketing, Scholarship and Awards. Teacher volunteers are covered. Still a few other volunteers needed for positions. There is an author coming to Get Fit through Water Street Bookstore. Yoga will be part of the warm up. Katie will also provide warm up activities. High school students will be running with students from MSS and LSS. The final Try It Tuesday will be this week.

Should we use a PTO newsletter to let the community know what the schools are doing. Podcast?

Motion to adjourn: Suzy Finniss second Cyndy Smith