

## **Exeter Elementary PTO Minutes: September 11, 2019**

**Attendance:** Allison Battles, Dawn Peck, Heidi Merrow, Jennifer Gardes, William Nikiforakis, Nora Garrity, Drew Bairstow, Nicole Mazur, Suzy Finniss, Darcy Tilton, Cyndy Smith, Tina Jarrett, Jacki Deshon, Sheri Gushta, Steve Adler, Deanna Donnelly, Sarah Dewitt, Karen Krausse, Gina Gardner, Maureen Brown, Beth Cadorette, Sarah Ranisay

**Motion to approve minutes:** Cyndy Smith second Suzy Finniss

**Volunteer update/Nora Garrity:** We are always looking for volunteers for Try It Tuesday, book fairs and the Get Fit in May road race. Beth Cadorette mentioned the importance of confidentiality when working with students at the schools. If a volunteer receives information about a student that is of concern, they should share this only with the teacher and Steve Adler or herself.

**Treasurers report:** Not much has changed in the budget. Some of the line items have been removed. Money is being put towards school requested items/\$15,000. Some possibilities are playground equipment such as a soccer net and a shade area. Checks are issued to both schools for field trips and the LSS cross country team.

**Steve Adler/principal/MSS:** The opening meeting on August 22nd for all of SAU16 at the high school was very well received. Three students were able to share their story of the challenges they faced and support they received from our school district to help them overcome these challenges. This reflected the initiative in SAU 16 to give students a voice. Donna Paradis received the Eustis Award for outstanding service at MSS. The opening of school went well and it was fun to welcome all the students. Summer work focused on competency based education which supports personalized learning. Both schools will be using Seesaw which is an electronic portfolio in which they can share their work both with their teachers and parents. Teachers were trained in Next Generation Science Standards. They had eight days of training in what should be taught at each grade level and how it teachers should instruct. There will be a new reporting system. Esther Asbell and Chris Andriski presented this information on September 10. Teachers will be sharing students grade level achievements through competencies. There are online videos to explain the new reporting system if you were unable to attend this meeting. All doors and classrooms are now locked to reduce the ability of an intruder to move quickly throughout the building. MSS is currently working on two initiatives: teaching diversity, equity and inclusion ( PEA students will visit classrooms and share their experiences.) and making our school more green. There will only be two early releases that are not 12:00. Both will have a dismissal

time of 12:45. One will be in October and one in December. Having mostly 12:00 early releases will maximize time for professional development. October 3rd will be MSS Open House.

**Drew Bairstow/principal /LSS:**

LSS would like to welcome our wonderful new staff: Pam Garrity, Gina Gardner, Jackie Corlozzi, Samantha Winn, Nicole Conroy, Elizabeth LaBar, Elly Croteau-Labbranch and Melissa Ludice. We are very appreciative of Exeter approving these positions. The construction on Lincoln Street is done as well as the parking lot which looks great. There are many extra parking spots which allows for plenty of visitor parking as well as possibly commuter parking for the train station. Drama club has started and they will be performing Madagascar Junior. The show will be in mid November. After school enrichment activities will be starting soon. Open House is on September 19th. There will be two sessions so that parents can visit more than one class. Peace Makers and students involved in Restorative Justice will be assisting visitors that night.

**Suzy Finniss/MSS:** Kindergarten had a great start. Twenty-one students per class is a higher number than usual. The students loved their first S.T.E.A.M lesson. They used straws and connectors to support a book for three seconds. For Square One Art, they will be making self portraits. Kindergarten could use one more I-pad per

class, as the class sizes are so large, in order to move forward with Seesaw.

**Jacki Deshon/MSS:** First grade also had a great start. The students were very excited to begin their school year. October 11th first graders will be going to the Portsmouth Music Hall to see Dogman the Musical. Classroom teachers are looking forward to using Seesaw with their students. Megan Hubbard is the new first grade teacher.

**Maureen Brown/MSS:** Second grade is enjoying Seesaw. Thank you to the PTO for providing buses for field trips. On September 16, second grade will be going to Masobesic to study Biodiversity. Thank you for having the one inch border on the Square One Art paper. There will be no theme in second grade for the Square One Art project. Students will be encouraged to be creative. Thank you to the PTO for the \$100.00 reimbursement for teachers to cover start up costs in our classrooms. The thank you notes were also appreciated.

**Cyndy Smith/LSS:** Thank you for the start up funds. All receipts should be in by November 15th in order to be reimbursed. Square One Art is underway and classrooms are thinking of a theme. The school store is opening on September 12th. Student council has started. Mr. Schmidt said thank you for the t-shirts. A student design will be picked by next week.

**Nicole Mazur/fundraising:** We are hoping to come up with two bigger fundraisers in the next two years. We will be using social media more to reach out to parents and the community to promote fundraising. Below are some ways the PTO is able to raise money for the elementary schools:

\*Square One Art

\*Digital Box Tops (We are currently still accepting cut out Box Tops.)

\*Direct donation

\*Bins outside of LSS: clothing, toys, bedding...Last year we raised \$3,000 for the schools.

\*Restaurant night

\*Fifth grade yearbook-cost \$15/\$3 goes to PTO

\*UNH hockey game-tickets cost \$12/\$3 goes to PTO

\*School t-shirts possibly

\*Get Fit in May road race- \$18,000 raised last May, 300 fun run participants and 440 5K runners. Kim Myers is the new race director. Meetings take place the first Thursday of each month if anyone would like to help out.

Sponsorship is in need of more people. Registration is now open. The race will be May 16, 2020.

**Nicole Mazur:** The back to school luncheon for teachers will take place on 10/3 at LSS and 10/4 at MSS. There will also be a teacher appreciation luncheon in May. Last year all food was donated and the leftovers were given to St. Vincent De Paul.

**Other:** There was a tax issue in 2018 due to an unchecked box. The PTO may owe \$1700. We have an accountant working through this now and we will have a CPA filing taxes for us next year.

The school board is exploring the hiring of a school resource officer. Public comment is encouraged at the meeting on October 7th.

PTO is looking for a co-president to work with Allison Battles. If you are interested, please contact Exeter Elementary PTO.

**Motion to adjourn:** Cyndy Smith second Suzy Finniss