

Exeter Elementary PTO Minutes: October 9, 2019

Attendance: Allison Battles, Heidi Merrow, Steve Adler, Deanna Donnelly, Suzy Finniss, Dawn Peck, Nicole Mazur, Emily York, Megan Stagnone, Michelle Harvell, Rob Delorie, Jennifer Gardes, Susan Mills, Kimberly Myers, Sarah Dewitt

Allison Battles/Volunteer information: We had many parents volunteer to help with picture day. Volunteers may receive free pictures of their children if they volunteer to assist during picture time. Could we possibly offer a scholarship for families in need to pay for their child's pictures? Many people are interested in volunteering. We will need volunteers to help with the upcoming book fair. MSS will have a book fair in November and LSS will have theirs in December.

Allison Battles/Budget: We have received \$2,800 in direct donations to the PTO. We are hoping to raise \$8,000 dollars to replace the earnings from Charleston Wrap. A donation of \$5-\$10 would help us reach our goal and would be greatly appreciated. A deposit has been given to Millennium Running for the Get Fit in May road race. \$3,800 has reimbursed thus far to teachers for start up costs for their classrooms. Square 1 Art has been completed. you can order your child's art work on a mug, ornament, mouse pad...which all make great gifts. This is another successful fundraiser for our schools. Suzy Finniss and Robert Delorie will be working on finding a t-shirt vendor and choosing art work for t-shirts to be sold at both MSS and LSS.

Steve Adler/Principal MSS: Students and teachers at MSS are using Seesaw to share classroom learning. It is an electronic portfolio allowing students to record and share their learning with their teacher and family members. It is easier for younger students to do this on an I-pad. Having extra I-pads makes using Seesaw easier for teachers and young learners. Teachers will be using competency based report cards this year. In January, report cards will go home. All competencies will be listed and goals will be set for what students will be working on next. Mrs. McCaffrey's students worked on racial unity posters that were displayed in the town hall. Karla Putney has trained reading and math volunteers and they will begin working with students. She is also facilitating a professional book group. Teachers are reading Choice Words by Peter Johnston. Math intervention has begun. Interventionists will be using a program called Bridges which is a skill based program at each grade level. Students will be working in small groups. There is ongoing committee work in the areas of diversity, going green and wellness. Eighty-seven percent of students were represented at Open House. Last year ninety percent of students were represented. Thank you to the PTO for the luncheon. It was delicious. After School Enrichment has begun.

Deanna Donnelly/Vice principal LSS: Sixty-four percent of students were represented at LSS Open House. A form was sent out to parents asking what they would like to see at Open House. Teachers were encouraged to include Restorative Justice and Peacemaking activities were demonstrated that evening. Teachers are enjoying using Seesaw with their class. The older students are doing Seesaw on their own which authentically connects them to their work. Mrs Carlozzi is the new S.T.E.A.M. teacher at MSS and LSS and is helping with Seesaw and teaching lessons in the classrooms.

Dawn Peck/LSS 3rd grade: Third grade has been studying community for Project Based Learning(PBL) beginning with family, then classroom, school and finally our community. They will be going to St. Vincent De Paul to see how this organization helps the community. Also,

third grade will be creating their cornfield characters at home and displaying them at LSS on October 25th.

Suzy Finniss/ MSS Kindergarten: Field trips for the kindergarteners to the fire station begin next week.

Michelle Harvell/Yearbook: There will be a fifth grade yearbook available this year. It will be 40 pages double sided. The books will be sold for \$15.00 each. The yearbook club will begin in November. Parents will be able to add messages to their child's yearbook and companies will be able to take out ad space in the back. Fifth graders will be invited to enter a contest to design the books cover. Yearbooks will be available for online orders. Once the yearbook is complete, it will take twenty-eight days to receive the books. All grades will be able to purchase the yearbook. Third and fourth graders will have school photos only. Fifth graders will have candid photos included.

Fundraising/Allison Battles and Nicole Mazur: The UNH hockey game will be on November 10th at 1:00. With the earlier time, we are hoping it will be easier to bring younger students. Fifth graders will be singing the National Anthem. Tickets will be sold for \$12.00 with a \$3.00 profit to the PTO. Upcoming fundraisers: October-Square 1 Art, UNH hockey night/ November-restaurant night /January-apparel/t-shirts/ February-Teacher raffle /March-parent's night out / April- restaurant night/May- Get Fit road race/June-teacher tailored kits. Ideas for next year: photo shoot fundraiser and made in New Hampshire gifts.

Kyme Myers/Get Fit in May road race: Thank you the new people who have joined sponsorship. We've had one sponsorship meeting already and another at the end of October. Our whole Get Fit team will meet on October 10. We have signed a contract with Millennium Running to oversee the road race. We need to apply to USA Track and Field for insurance. Also this course needs to be recertified as a 5K. Registration is now open. There is a position to be filled in publicity/marketing. We are in need of someone to manage distribution of flyers.

Sarah Dewitt/Going green: We are hoping to have more sustainable events at the schools such as classroom parties etc. One goal for this year is to start composting. There is an educational video available from Mr. Fox for teaching and learning about composting. We are also hoping to not waste as much food. Could we start a sharing table in which unopened foods could be placed for students who are still hungry?

Other:

*There will be another school board meeting on November 13th to discuss hiring a school resource officer. The next PTO meeting will be at LSS at 5:30 on the November 13th. This allows interested PTO attendees to easily attend the school board meeting that evening at LSS.

* The 2018 tax problem has been settled. The PTO owes nothing and the issue is considered resolved. We will be using \$275.00 from administrative funds to have PTO tax returns completed in the future.

Motion to adjourn: Nicole Mazur second Suzy Finniss