

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

**Attendance:** Allison Battles, Heidi Merrow, Dawn Peck, Nicole Mazur, Suzy Finniss, Gina Gardner, Steve Adler, Robert Delorie, Val Castonguay, Cyndy Smith, Deanna Donnelly, Jennifer Gardes

**Motion to approve minutes:** Nicole Mazur second Suzy Finniss

**Volunteers/Allison Battles:** One volunteer helped out with eye exams. Is there a need for volunteers at the book fair? Steve Adler will look into this.

**Budget/Valerie Castonguay/Treasurer:** We have met half of our goal for direct donations to the PTO. The fundraiser gave us a big boost. The PTO profited \$1200.00 from the UNH hockey game. One hundred more tickets were sold this year. Having it in the afternoon allowed families with young children to attend. This made a big difference. This was an enjoyable event for families. There was a tribute to Veterans. All Veterans were thanked for their service and asked to stand up to be recognized. Should we add a line to ask for donations if people are unable to attend the game next year? We have an adequate amount of money in the budget (37-38 thousand) to pay for expenses. The deadline for teachers to be reimbursed for start up costs is 11/15. Square 1 Art had a revenue of \$9,500 profiting our schools \$3,000. The deadline for free shipping for Square 1 Art orders is 11/15. Steve and Drew were asked to remind families of this deadline. We are still accepting cut out Box Tops but you can also get the app to scan your receipt. Keep an eye out on Facebook for a teaching video on how to use the Box Top App.

**Nicole Mazur/Fundraising:** We earned \$300.00 for restaurant night at the Community Oven. We will be having another restaurant night at Sea Dog. It will take place on December 4th. The event will be posted on Facebook. Photos from the UNH hockey game fundraiser have been approved to go in the 5th grade yearbook. There is a lot of interest amongst students to join the yearbook club. Drew Bairstow is creating a drop box for pictures. The teacher tailored kits fundraiser will be coming next year. The grade level kits will be available online. A link will also be sent to families on Seesaw and Facebook. Another fundraiser coming soon will be school t-

shirts. Discussion about the logo continues. Shirts may cost \$8.00 each if you preorder-\$10.00 if ordered later. This shall be determined at a later date.

**Get Fit in May/Allison Battles:** The committee is securing a new vendor for t-shirts and working through logistics for a smoother process. There are new initiatives related to sustainability for race day including composting and water bottles. Some new entertainment ideas include having the boy scouts come, face painting, soccer, track and field. There will be a new D.J. this year from the LSS school community.

**Cultural Enrichment/Allison Battles:** LSS has the Tiger program on the 13th of November and MSS has the Audubon coming in November.

**Steve Adler/MSS principal:** The first grade enjoyed a field trip to the Music Hall in Portsmouth to see Dogman and had a walking field trip to the public library. Kindergarten had a walking field trip to the fire station. Some members of administration attended a competency based workshop. Professor Beth Oshansky did a workshop for first and second grade teachers on Picturing Writing. Kindergarten teachers attended a workshop on incorporating play into Kindergarten. I-pads will soon be arriving. Thank you to the PTO. This will be a great help for our young students when using Seesaw. Parent conferences went well. Thanks to the teachers for being available to parents at many different times. LSS/MSS both received the Blue Ribbon Award. Hat Day was October 23. We raised \$620 for the Children's Chamber Fund. The Veteran's Day assembly included pictures from families, stories, songs, a slide show and staff family members attending the event. It was very meaningful to students and staff.

**Deanna Donnelly/LSS vice principal:** Thank you for the UNH hockey night. All who attended had a nice time. The cornfield characters made by third graders were a success. LSS celebrated Arbor Day by having the fourth graders share poems honoring trees. \$500 was collected for Unicef during trick-or-treating. Students and teachers practiced the ALICE protocol. Police officers were impressed with the collaboration between students and staff in how best handle such a situation. The drama club will be presenting Madagascar Jr. next week. All students will be able to see the performance. Thank you for the Tiger program.

**Cyndy Smith/LSS/4th grade:** After school enrichment has ended. Items for the Take-apart club are needed. The student council is having a food drive.

**Gina Gardner/LSS/3rd grade:** The students were very engaged in the Tiger program. Third graders enjoyed their trip to Legoland. They have been studying force and motion.

**Suzy Finniss/MSS/Kindergarten:** Kindergarteners took a walking field trip to St. Vincent's to deliver a food donation.

There will be no meeting in **December**. The next meeting will be **January 8th** at **MSS** at **5:30**.

**Motion to adjourn:** Suzy Finniss second Nicole Mazur