

EES PTO Minutes
September 14, 2021
6pm, Zoom

1. Attendance: Carole McCombe, Kathryn Korner, Keri Tedford, Jen Barlow, Lauren Barlow, Michelle Bibeault, Brandy Montigny, Cody Silks (6:17), Julia Silks (6:23)
2. Review proposed agenda
3. Principal's Report: Open house this Thursday, September 16, for pk - grade 4. Ice cream by PTO at the end of evening. Middle school open house on Tuesday, Sept 28 - trying a new format based on feedback. More of a panel format with slides about expectations. Ice cream will be provided by the PTO at the end of evening. The school has new photographers this year. School photos will be in September. Field trips and visitors are on a limited hold for now. Some programs can happen i.e., out of doors or a presenter coming into a classroom or cohort such as middle school. Eastford CARES program is new and grant funded. This grant will provide after school programs which are free. Some of the programs are as follows; access to homework assistance, wellness, and enrichment and board games. The administration is working on lining up a weekly stem program, a yoga program, stories and crafts and more! A monthly calendar will be published. Families are being asked to commit to attending more than one program. It's free! They are trying to spread the word to reach all families, so let's help with that. More information will be in the October newsletter. Changes in staff this year include, Michelle Bibeault moved to a technology media position in the library, Jessica Garvie is the new k teacher, Jen Barlow is the middle school math teacher, Adam Phelps is the middle school ELA teacher, Dave Burgess is the instrumental teacher and a new special education teacher has been hired but will begin in October. Rebekah Budd is the long term sub for art. There are many transportation issues in other schools, which is not an issue for us at this time because we only have 2 busses. A robocall system is used for notifications in the event that there is a bus issue and families need to be notified. A piece of our playground equipment was damaged over the summer, the wave. This is being looked into as to how to have it removed and what to replace it with, if anything.
4. Treasurer's Report
 - K. Korner will be phasing out at the end of this year. Looking for someone to train on procedures.
5. Old Business
 - a. Last Spring fundraiser proceeds: Basketball hoops were discussed as a possibility. The poles are in need of replacement, so the whole thing, poles and backboards will need to be replaced. PTO could possibly purchase the equipment if the school pays for the installation. A playground inspector will need to be involved for safety. No idea what the cost would be, but Mrs. McCombe will investigate this. It might be a possibility to combine removing the wave with

replacing the basketball hoop. It might take some time to get an estimate for this project. The Readiness program may be able to financial assistance with this. Mrs. McCombe will bring this up at the next Readiness meeting.

- b. Sign contest. A subcommittee will brainstorm theme Ideas and create the flyer to be sent home with students. Members of subcommittee, L. Barlow, K. tedford and B. Montigny.

6. Business

A. Open House 9/14 and 9/28

Ice cream socials served 7-7:30. One table for ice cream and one for PTO fundraiser flyers and info. Volunteers for shifts. 9/16: C. Allen, A. Ellsworth, 9/28: L. Scranton, B. Montigny, K. Ball

Table outside or inside the gym depending on the weather. Lauren will purchase supplies including ice cream and Italian ices for students who are dairy restrictions. We will need: large cooler, gloves, scoopers, whipped cream, sprinkles, chocolate syrup, caramel syrup, mini marshmallows, cherries, ect. Servers will wear gloves and masks. If it rains, we can serve the ice cream inside as a take-out option. Mrs. McCombe will facilitate the setting up of 2 rectangle tables and paper towels.

B. Parent Teacher Conferences

- a. Dates - December 9, 2021 in the evening and December 10, 2021 in the afternoon.
- b. Meal provided to teachers – Discussion about Sweet Peas in Brooklyn and Vanilla Bean which the school has used on PD days. Ask parents to make a dessert to add to the meal. M. Bibeault will send a google form to teachers for their thoughts on meals.

C. Fall Fundraiser

a. Flower Power bulb fundraiser

Online only, ship directly to customers. Orders need to be placed no later than 10/15. Flyers were sent home today. L. Barlow will send info so M. Bibeault can make posters to hang up at school to promote this fundraiser.

J. Barlow will distribute flyers to classroom teachers. The incentive for students will be a pizza party to share with their class. Scholastic books for second and third prizes.

D. Fall Book Fair

A volunteer needed to chair this event. No volunteers. We will ask again at the next meeting. Conferences are the week of December 6, 2021. Delivery will be requested for Friday, December 3. We will again use Scholastic online scheduling for volunteers

We currently have \$1376.60 in Scholastic Dollars™ Offer to new teachers and library. M. Bibeault will meet with the new teachers to have them find books through the special scholastic link (J. Barlow, D. Burgess, A. Phelps, J. Garvie, R. Budd).

E. Fall Assembly

We can possibly giving money for CILC programs or Theater Works programs. Dana Rau, author of some of the Who was books, sent an email to J. Barlow. Maybe 2 live performances. Jen will contact and get pricing. We are asking for volunteers to research and book assemblies.

F. Box Top “Rally” - Box Tops have gone digital.

K. Korner will forward flyers to M. Bibeault for posting around the school

G. New ideas for this school year

H. Next meeting 10/12 at 6pm

Zoom is the preferred method of meeting.