

East PTO Meeting

20 September 2023 / 7:00 PM / East MPR

Attendees

Kelly Newton, Jenn Columbus, Danielle Thomas, Gia Morris, Jonathan Hawes, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Brooke Stulz, Amy Moore, Jen Eustance, Lindsay Newell, Maria Kutsch, Laura Muller, Allison Daley, Meredith Saylor, Dawn Murray, Colleen Towle, Heather Geary, Amy Roberts, Cristina Barletto, Nicole Dunn, Cheryn Byron, Tricia Hagopian (Sullivan), Caitlin Walsh

Notes

President Updates

- Welcome & Introductions
- Nominating Committee Intro and Vote
 - Nominating committee members Jenn Columbus (Chair), Cristina Barletto, Kristin O'Brien, Megan Aldridge, and Barbara Fitzpatrick have nominated Nicole Dunn as co-President, Cheryn Byron as co-Vice President, Kelly Newton President, Jenn Columbus Vice President, Gia Morris Treasurer, Danielle Thomas Secretary and Standing Committee members: Annual Appeal – Sarah Kuzniar, Enrichment – Caitlin Walsh, Communications – Cristina Barletto, Activities – Amy Moore. A motion to vote was made by Kristin O'Brien, approved unanimously.
- School Housekeeping:
 - reminder to update CORI forms for any parent volunteer
 - pickup patrol, KIA now an option

Principal & Vice Principal Update

- Reminder to parents to use pickup patrol and encouraging parents to sign up on the aspen portal so schools across the district can use as a communication tool

Vice President Update

- Volunteers needed: Fundraising Chair, Get Smart About Art, Enrichment – Holly Hill point person, Green Team, Staff Appreciation, Pop Up Explorers
- Room Parents: working on collecting room parents from classroom teachers, Jenn to coordinate and email classroom parents

Treasurer Update

- 2023-24 Budget Presentation & Vote
- Motion to approve budget by Barbara Fitzpatrick, second Amy Moore, unanimously approved

Fundraising

- Looking for fundraising co-chair, past chair happy to assist new chair(s)
- Events include: Nona's night, Fall photographer, Minted

Secretary Update

- The directory process has begun! Class contact info will be formatted and printed out for review by parents at curriculum night next week in an effort to double check contact info before full on directory formatting begins.

Annual Appeal

- Estimated cost per student will be \$170 this year, envelopes will go out by end of week

5th Grade Committee

- Dawn Murray and Kristin O'Brien co-chair
- Dawn Murray presented a slide show on what the 5th grade committee entails

Communications

- Cristina Barletto discussed how communications will be handled this year. Social Media use, streamlining enrichment posts, please send field trip photos to Cristina. Safety wise, any pictures sent will be posted after a class has been to the event.
- Any event chair, please send Cristina a small write up to advertise for the event, any needs before (ie volunteer) and after, photos from the event. Photos sent via text message preferred.
- Streamlining the newsletter – weekly updates, short calendar/snapshot of the week sent each Sunday evening, the PTO main newsletter will be sent first of month for upcoming month
- Please email both Michele and Trisha updates/event info to be included in the newsletter
- Discussed including community section in the newsletter

Activities & Events

- Looking to streamline how events are run and keep notes/contact for future event chairs
- Our first big event! Back to School Bash – volunteers needed for inflatables
-social media/eblast to note about parking
- **Future Events:**
- Parent Social – Wednesday, September 27th, led by Community Relations Team
- Movie Night – Thursday, October 5th
- Halloween Bash – Thursday, October 26th
- Book Fair – Mon-Weds, November 6-8th
- Snowflake Sale - Saturday, December 2nd, 9-11am
- Hobby Night – Wednesday, November 8th, last day of book fair, discussed if we should include this event with the book fair or if it should be a stand alone event. Discussed including teachers in the hobbyists.

Enrichment

- Parent volunteers are in place for each grade. Field trips, events and presentations are underway and getting scheduled.

Get Smart About Art

- Overall chair needed to work with Laura and Danielle this year.
- Grade level chairs needed: K (2 – Barbara Fitzpatrick volunteered), 2nd (1), 3rd (1), 4th (1), 5th (1)

Playground Committee

- Principle Hawes spoke about the new East School Playground
- Vendor: Childscapes, out of Marshfield MA – they've done most play structures in the area. Mr. Hawes has worked with them before
- Mr. Hawes presented a few cost/fundraising options
- Presented 2 linear/circuit play structure for all ages and body sizes
- Hidden costs include installation and surface cost
- Structure to be added at end of swing set/gaga ball pit
- Town approval complete
- The playground estimate (\$58k structure) total is \$85k, quoted \$30k installation and surfacing
- Discussed fundraising vs pause/phase in options. To phase in or pause until all fundraising is complete or to finish the project at one time, one big fundraising push to reach goal amount
- Discussed how to present the proposed new playground to families
- Suggestion made for a Fun Run/Boostathon as a fundraising event
- Discussed having a committee/team

Staff Appreciation

- Coffee Bar – first day of school, big hit!
- Looking for a team to help run, Barbara Fitzpatrick volunteered to help

Community Service

- 4th Grade working on a student run Maui Fundraiser. Additional fundraising ideas include, Maui Monday – students can purchase leis for \$1, back to school bash table and curriculum night, tables for donations

Kindness Club

- Kick off event: Kindness Ninja – presentation next Thursday 9:30am, Anti-bully – acts of kindness – challenge to school to complete 5,000 acts of kindness
- Discussed timing/idea of a shoe drive, kindness ninja has trip/contacts in areas of need around the world. Shows students how their donations are put to use, shares pictures of donation deliveries with students after
- Visual this year, ninjas on a playground – to discuss with Ms. Mac

Green Team Update

- Lunchtime recycling polishing to get program up and running again for the next school year. Volunteers needed in lunchroom the next two weeks to assist until everyone is back up to speed.

School Beautification

- Discussed having a quarterly school ground clean up sign up

Math Olympics

- Linda to continue running, discussed starting again in the spring and even moving it up a week

Teacher Grants

- No update

Sunshine Committee

- Ongoing to welcome new families and those in need.

Technology Discussion

- No update

BOKS

- No update

School Store

- Doing great!

METCO Updates

- No updates

SEPAC Updates

- October, Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Iready screenings
- Katy Boucher from Accord School in Norwell, to discuss Friends, Fenemies and Social Drama, November 16th

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Thomas, PTO Secretary