Essex Fells PTA

General Membership Meeting

Essex Fells School, Media Center

January 18, 2017

* **President Christine DiGiovanni called the meeting to order at 8:48 AM.**
* **In Attendance:** Christine DiGiovanni, Nicole Skopak, Angela Vega, Brenda Cioce, Carol D’Alessandro, Catherine Walsh, Maya Autret, Carolyn Goldman, Kathy Critchley, Melissa Chnapko, Lauri Wactlar, Farrah Carnahan, Dawn Roppatte, Megan Farrell, Nicolina Lattarulo, Joan Paulin, Gabrielle Steiner, Melanie Galvin, Tricia Himawan, Laura D’Avella, Margaret Nowak, Jasmin Rios, and Michelle Gadaleta

**Teacher Representative:** None

* November minutes were approved with a motion by Carolyn Goldman, seconded by Lauri Wactlar.
* **Principal Update:** The following update was given by Mrs. Gadaleta:
  + Preschool and Kindergarten registration for 2017-18 school year will be held on 2/1 and 2/2 respectively. Tours of the school will begin at 9 am on each of those days. PTA representatives will be there to provide information and to discuss school supplies. All forms are available online. Potential class size for upcoming kindergarten class was discussed. We have 16 students from the EFS preschool that will be moving to Kindergarten. AM preschool program is most sought after and current registered families do get first choice.
  + Frogs are now the school pet for EFS. The frogs will visit each homeroom starting with 3rd and 6th grade. Students will have the opportunity to take the frogs home over the weekend. The names of those interested will be drawn from a raffle.
  + It is budget season for upcoming school year. Will try to keep class sizes the same and small staff changes, if needed.
* **Pilates Fundraiser:** Details of the upcoming Pilates fundraiser were given.
* **No Fuss Lunch (NFL):** NFL representative Marion attended the meeting and brought samples of some of the menu items. Key items discussed include:
  + How the menu is determined and how choices are rotated. Menu items do not include pasta, eggs, and salmon. The menu is available a month in advance.
  + Can order up to 10 pm the night before. And can cancel up to 6 am the day of to receive a create to use at another time. Orders need to be canceled by 10 am on snow days.
  + NFL does not use processed food; the chicken is Bell & Evans; grassed fed meat; Applegate Farms hot dogs and cold cuts. Food is peanut and tree nut free. Gluten free, vegan and vegetarian options are available.
  + Carolyn Goldman is the school representative for NFL. Any questions or concerns can be brought to her attention or to NFL directly.
* **BOE Update:** New members have been sworn in. It is budget season and the BOE is considering a number of projects including installing AC in the gym. Reminded everyone that the public is invited to attend the meetings. Also to consider joining BOE when there are openings.
* **Class Moms:** Class moms were asked to start thinking about the grade projects that will be auctioned off at the Spring fundraiser. We also discussed ideas for the class baskets for the fundraiser.
* **Family Fun Day**: Spring Family Fun Day will take place on March 14, 2016. Details to follow.
* **Foundation Update:** Kathy Critchley and Laura D’Avella provided the update:
  + The Foundation is working on revising their bylaws.
  + They are planning a Patrons Party and are discussing a possible fundraiser.
  + Reminded everyone to use Amazon Smile to support the Foundation.
* **Spring Fundraiser:** Margaret Nowak provided a list of businesses that have made donations for the fundraiser. She asked for help contacting them and other businesses. The donation solicitation letter is available on the PTA webpage. Asking that donations be submitted by April 1st. Sign-up sheet was distributed.
* **Holiday Gift Shop:** CASA and FIS received $2000 in gifts as well $160 each in gift cards. We also earned over $500 for the West Caldwell fire victims.
* **Treasurer Report:** Brenda Cioce showed financial report for July 1 – December 31, 2016. We currently have $40,000 in our banking accountant. She clarified that expenses will outweigh income due to large expenditures (i.e. iPads). Treasurer mentioned that 6th grade fundraising is behind compared to last year.
* **MyFoodDays.com:** Pasta and pizza lunch ordering for January 30th – June 12th through myfooddays.com. A small bottle of water is now included with lunch order. The price increase of $0.50 reflects this inclusion. The deadline to order lunch is January 27, 2017. Changes can be to your order until February 10th.
* **School Apparel:** PTA will be selling 2 types of school spirit apparel. Order forms will be distributed this week. This year, the Olympics t-shirts will feature the National Blue Ribbon Award logo.
* **Teacher Representative:** None present.
* **Meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM by Christine DiGiovanni.**