Essex Fells PTA

General Membership Meeting

Essex Fells School, Media Center

November 16, 2016

* **President Christine DiGiovanni called the meeting to order at 8:48 AM.**
* **In Attendance:** Christine DiGiovanni, Nicole Skopak, Angela Vega, Brenda Cioce, Maya Autret, Kathy Critchley, Julie Piccoli, Melissa Chnapko, Tina Gardner, Lauri Wactlar, Farrah Carnahan, Doree Lyne, Dawn Roppatte, Nicolina Lattarulo, Lucinda Davis, Robin Wilson, Kathy Monroe, Kelly Muzzei, Kris Huegel, Annemarie Hochkeppel, and Michelle Gadaleta

**Teacher Representative:** None

* October minutes were approved with a motion by Kathy Monroe, seconded by Doree Lyne.
* **Fall Festival:** The fall festival generated a profit of approximately $15,000. It was a great success thanks to the 70 volunteers who helped out. Pictures will be published in an upcoming issue of Essex Fells Magazine.
* **Spring Fundraiser:** The spring fundraiser will take place on April 28, 2017 at the Essex Fells Country Club. The donation letter was handed out so that solicitation can begin. A volunteer sign-up sheet was also distributed for those interested in helping plan the event.
* **Blue Ribbon School:** The PTA would like to display a temporary blue ribbon bow on the school’s front sign to acknowledge the school’s recent award. Kathy Monroe volunteered to make it.
* **BOE Update:** Mrs. Gadaleta gave the update. The BOE has been approving some policies. The school is being designated a “No Drone Zone.” This means that no drones can fly on school property unless it is a school project that has been approved by the BOE. The next BOE meeting will be held on 11.16.16 where Mrs. Gadaleta will present the PARCC scores. They will also be available on the website after the meeting.
* **Class Moms:** Class moms were asked to cash the class contribution checks for accounting purposes.
* **School Picture**: Retakes took place and reprints will be available soon.
* **Membership Committee:** The presale of the festival tickets on Mobile Arq went well. Will continue to use the site for other sales.
* **Family Fun Day**: Spring Family Fun Day will take place on March 14, 2016. Details to follow. Measured the interest in having a EFS families ski day. There was some interest from those in attendance.
* **Foundation Update:** Kathy Critchley provided the update:
	+ The Foundation is working on revising their bylaws.
	+ They are planning a Patrons Party and are discussing a possible fundraiser.
	+ Next meeting will be in December.
* **Green Thumb Committee:** Lucinda Davis discussed that holiday decorating will begin after the Thanksgiving holiday. She will attempt to incorporate the blue ribbon.
* **Holiday Shop**: Robin Wilson discussed the plans for the upcoming holiday shop. We will also be collecting money for the victims of the fire in West Caldwell.
* **Library Committee:** Lucinda Davis relayed that we have enough volunteers and that the reorganization has begun.
* **School Lunch:**  Christine DiGiovanni provided the following update:
	+ Wipes are now being stored in Mrs. Gadaleta’s office. Volunteers should get them from there. We will ask families to donate additional containers of wipes for the whole school.
	+ Moving forward the PTA would like water to be included in the price of lunch. Some discussion took place. PTA board will consider some other options.
* **Pumpkin Hunt:**  The event was a success and thank you to everyone who helped.
* **Drop-off and Rolling Pick-up:**  They were reviewed. Parents are reminded to educate those responsible for pick-up of the procedure. They were also asked to tell children to stay at the cones and not to run to the car. A safety audit of both will be conducted. Results will be shared.
* **School Apparel:** Kathy Monroe is still evaluating ecommerce options for apparel and will work with Maya Autret. Currently Kathy is developing a Blue Ribbon School t-shirt and hopes to have it completed within the next week. Orders will be placed through Mobile Arq.
* **6th Grade Update:** Chairs have been delivered. They will have a candy/snacks sale at the variety show.
* **Treasurer Report:** Profits from the fall festival have helped establish a healthy balance of $50,000 in the bank account. We are still keeping $10,000 in reserves.
* **Website Update:** Maya Autret an initial design. She and Angela Vega will work together to finalize the design and get the website live.
* **Principal’s Update:** Mrs. Gadaleta discussed the Blue Ribbon Ceremony that she attended in Washington DC. An article about the school’s award will be in the December issue of Essex Fells magazine.
* **Teacher Representative:** None present.
* **Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM by Christine DiGiovanni.**