

Parents of Manchester Essex Middle School (PEMS)

MINUTES

Friday, December 1, 2017

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Vicki Donnellan	Wish Lists	vickidonnellan@comcast.net
Maria Schmidt	Celtics Night	mariaalschmidt@yahoo.com

Attendees: Lisa Pratt, Lynn Warnock, Michelle Pelletier, Anne Engelhardt, Vicki Donnellan, Melanie Oldeman, Maria Schmidt, Joanne Maino

Principal's Message

Middle School Council mission this year is Kindness. Kindness Korner will kick off in December with ideas of how to increase kindness at school. Joanne will ask Council to think of ways enrichment can contribute to efforts.

Piloting new science curriculum in all three grades; hoping to have finalized by December 2018. Goal is to have a more cohesive curriculum so the three grades can work more collectively together.

Thinking about tie-dye t-shirts for March Madness program. Matt Schlegel will coordinate. Start talking about how PTO can help in January.

Snacks in laundry baskets and bottled water for DC trip would be greatly appreciated again

Enrichment Update

Enrichment is supporting the Museum of Science's "Motion: Speed, Velocity and Acceleration" program in February at a total cost of \$900, as well as Alastair Moock's "Social Justice Concert" in March at a cost of \$700. Both are all-school programs.

Joanne reached out to English teachers asking if enrichment can help them in any way.

Enrichment will also support Kindness Korner and anything needed in conjunction with the new science curriculum.

Celtics Night

Celtics Night package includes two complimentary tickets for a game on April 11. We discussed using them in a drawing for those who participate in Celtics Night, or offering to Joanne as an incentive for something she's doing. We also get a half-time game on the floor and the high-five tunnel before the game; need to figure out how we want to handle/who participates at half-time; it will be against another school.

Celtics Night – continued

Maria will ask Erin at Celtics to revise order form; Michelle to create PayPal link; Melanie to convert order form to a fillable PDF then upload form and PayPal link to website; Joanne will send out an email notice once website is ready. Purchasers can print or complete form online, drop off at the office or email to Maria; payment by check can be dropped at middle school office with form; electronic payment can be done via PayPal link on our web page. Orders without completed forms will not be filled.

Sarah O'Leary and Paula Newton will take over the program next year.

School Supplies

We sold fewer kits but made same amount of money. Sales of backpacks and water bottles were lower, which makes sense given that those items can be used for multiple years.

Nicole Olivier will work on the program with Maria this spring and will take over the program next year.

School Directory

Due to low participation and our belief that middle school parents do not use the directory as frequently as elementary parents (if at all!), we decided to eliminate this program next year.

Teacher Wish Lists

Vicki has not received many requests from teachers yet. Joanne said that Cathy recently sent an email and Joanne followed up with a group voice mail. Teams will meet to discuss what they need collectively. Base timing of when to distribute SignUp Genius to parents/guardians on how soon we get feedback from the teachers. Might be better to wait until after holidays.

Grade 8 - No update

Communications

First uses of S'More newsletters for spirit ware and gift cards, etc. were very successful; because it's a link we can track readership and clicks, which we could not do with text pasted into Aspen.

Plan to send one newsletter per month, supplemented with quick single-topic flyers for special programs as needed. Monthly newsletters should always include enrichment updates, thank you letters such as those recently published from students and Grade 6, and request for/reminders about dues.

Budget

Overall Enrichment Budget \$6K

All-school enrichment budget remaining \$1.4K

Remaining for 2017-2018 Enrichment by Grade:

Grade	Field Trips	In-School Programs
6	\$0	\$403.47 (\$150 earmarked for baking project)
7	\$500	\$500
8	\$500	\$500

Spirit Ware

Student Council store raised \$430.20 on \$3,585 in sales; great participation due in part to communication out via S'More newsletter.

Some of the sports teams had stores as well -- XC store raised \$92, hockey likely to raise \$150. Print flyers for basketball; Vicki will coordinate with Matt Schlegel.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Friday, January 19 at 8:30 AM in the middle school conference room.