

**Parents of Manchester Essex Middle School (PEEMS)**

**MINUTES**

**Friday, September 15, 2017**

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Maria Schmidt	Celtics Night	mariaalschmidt@yahoo.com
Tracey Burke	School Directory	Nburke62@comcast.net

**Attendees:** Joanne Maino, Lisa Pratt, Lynn Warnock, Melanie Oldeman, Michelle Pelletier, Anne Engelhart, Maria Schmidt, Lisa Brown, Nadia Wetzler

**1- PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Focus on kindness this year.

RULER training/program [Recognize Understand Label Expression Redirect] – rolling out with teachers first, then students. Talking about feelings, understanding differences between two emotions as a road to solving conflict. Social emotional well-being focus with a goal towards individual self-regulation and outward expression.

School council will be focused on kindness as well, in conjunction with the RULER program.

Dr. Elizabeth Englander coming in from MARCC aggression reduction clinic on October 19. Will present to Grades 5-6, Grades 7-8, then high school. Focus on cyber bullying/social media to educate community and students about being kind.

PTO will pay for DJ for the first dance.

MERMS has adopted a school in Liberty, TX through Principals Helping Principals. 75 kids displaced by Hurricane Harvey need supplies, clothes, uniforms. Will do a school drive in conjunction with Halloween dance. PTO may be able to help with shipping costs, perhaps do a SignUp Genius for donations. Kids can bring items in, help pack items to ship. Could we briefly connect the two schools via Skype during the dance?

DC parent information night on October 5. Using new travel company, Explorica. \$727 per student for same package. Michelle will help with transportation logistics. Trip is June 5-8. Joan McWhorter is trip coordinator. Using same hotel and buses are important. Need to educate parents/push the Scrip

program as a 3-year effort to raise money for your student's trip; consider making a one-minute video of PTO moms talking about how they use the Scrip program to earn money for DC trip.

Open House September 28. Exploratory teachers will be in library; 12-minute blocks to follow kids' schedules.

March Madness Week will be repeated this year. Celtics is February 28 – could kickoff March Madness. Joanne would like to book Alistair Moock/Music and Social Change program week of March 12 during March Madness – whole-school assembly.

## **2-MEETING TIMES**

Joanne received a request from a parent asking that PTO meetings take place in the evening. Most current officers/members cannot do evening meetings. Maria tried evening meetings with Memorial PTO and no one came. Teachers and Joanne can't be there, and we can't use the school. Joanne will include in her weekly newsletter a note asking people who are interested in evening meetings to contact Lisa. Based on feedback from Joanne's newsletter, we could try a re-cap meeting at the Landing; Michelle is willing to host one and see if anyone comes/how it goes. Let's also push more to have people read the meeting minutes and provide feedback.

## **2- DIRECTORY**

Memorial asks parents to opt out of the directory; can we do that? Joanne could send an email to all parents asking them to opt out if they don't want to go in the directory, then use district database to populate our directory. Best-case scenario would be to add an opt-in checkbox to the emergency cards that parents complete at the beginning of each year. Continue to push the link via Aspen email blast and Joanne's weekly newsletter. Link is currently closed but Tracey will open it soon.

## **3- OPEN POSITIONS**

We would like to identify **grade-level coordinators for sixth and seventh grade** in addition to eighth grade. Create job descriptions so people know what the time commitment will be, how many projects will happen. Michelle will coordinate with Doris-Ann Vosseler/Joan McWhorter (G8), Abby Whittredge (G7), and Matt Schlegel/Amy Desmond (G6) to get a better idea of what they are thinking about. We also need a **parent coordinator for the eighth grade DC trip**; volunteer in place for moving up ceremony. Joanne will add open positions to her next weekly newsletter.

## **4- OPEN HOUSE**

Open House is September 28. Table at open house will focus on dues; three high school students will man the tables and accept payments. Those who have already paid dues or pay dues that evening will have their names put into a drawing for a 4-pack of passes to Celtics open practice on October 1; winner will be announced at the end of the evening and will take home the passes. Maria will write a blurb and send to Joanne to include in her weekly newsletters between now and the open house.

## **5- WEBSITE**

To keep website current, whenever anyone sends a blurb to Joanne, please copy Melanie.

## **6- BUDGET**

With what we expect to get, plus what we will spend, we will have \$18 left at the end of the year. We need people to pay their dues; less than 25% are paying. Make sure parents know where the dues go.

## **7- ENRICHMENT NEEDS**

Anne will circle back to Joanne to see if teachers have requests and whether the Museum of Science program is wanted this year.

## **8- FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY**

Take a Rose, Give a Rose program done in Danvers – can we do something like that? Could be a nice complement to kindness theme.

Celtics Game - Celtics vs. Hornets, Wednesday February 28 (tech afternoon for 5th grade play). Maria gave invoice to Michelle to pay. Tickets will go on sale before the holidays.

Spirit Ware - We will not sell spirit ware at Open House. It will be available to order prior to the holidays for a limited period of time. PTO members will come to lunch periods with sample items and order forms for students to take home. Check with Joanne/YMCA to see if we can have a table at the middle school play.

Scrip Gift Card Program - Michelle will update gift card program info and send PDF to Melanie to upload to the website. Orders will be placed once a month throughout the school year. Need to educate parents on how to save money for DC trip with this program; consider making a video of moms talking about how they did it last year so Joanne can include in weekly newsletter.

## 2017-2018 Overview

<b>August</b>	
15	Officers meet to organize the year, look at the budget
<b>September</b>	
7	6th Grade Parent Night
15	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
27	Teacher Luncheon—Carol Shaw, Regine Adam and Karen Clark
28	Open House 6-8pm
	Directory-- help Tracey get new names and addresses
<b>October</b>	
5	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade DC Trip Parent Information Night
20	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
	Meet with Student Council/Matt Schlegel about dance and web store
29	Dance
<b>November</b>	
	Web Store open for Holiday delivery--Lisa
	Teacher wish lists-- Vicki
	Star Labs? MOS--Anne
<b>December</b>	
1	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
TBA	Dance?
<b>January</b>	
19	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
<b>February</b>	
16	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
28	Celtics Night
<b>March</b>	
12	March Madness Week begins
23	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
	First Day School Supplies-- need a coordinator
<b>April</b>	
27	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
<b>May</b>	
TBA	Teacher Luncheon
<b>June</b>	
5-8	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade DC trip
9	PMEMS meeting 8:30am
TBA	8th grade ceremonies