

Parents of Manchester Essex Middle School

Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2019

Present: Lynn Warnock, Lisa Pratt, Michelle Pelletier, Melanie Oldeman, Vicki Donnellan, Jim Zaremba, Joanne Maino; Not Present: Paula Newton

Principal's Message – Joanne Maino

March Madness scheduled for week of March 18 with big event on Friday, March 22. Joanne will purchase t-shirts for students and teachers from her gift fund this year. Rather than colors by grade, students will be able to choose their color based on the Mood Meter, and the back of the shirts will say "Emotions Matter." For the games on Friday, there will be a Teachers' Table alongside the student competitors; teachers cannot win the contests! Tees will arrive two weeks prior to the event. PMEMS can help by organizing the shirts (Carolyn to print labels from order spreadsheet to make grouping easier), taking videos and photos, and assisting with crowd control. Hoping to incorporate a fun video "Fort Nite Movies" into the event somehow.

Thinking about a dance in February, depending on basketball tournament schedules for gym availability. Otherwise will probably wait until April.

"Lip Dub" planned for June; not sure what help will be needed. Considering a culminating video on the turf. More details at next meeting; could be some volunteer opportunities for high school students to help.

Celtics Tickets – Michelle Pelletier

Michelle reported that we have sold 58 of 125 tickets. The PayPal link is down and she has been working with them to troubleshoot the issue. Deadline to purchase tickets is right after February break so once the link is back up, we will send out a reminder in an email blast and in Joanne's newsletter.

Teacher Wish List – Vicki Donnellan

Still some items outstanding but many were purchased prior to the holidays and are already in use in the classrooms. Concern that the wish list is too much? Consensus around the table that it's optional and some parents really appreciate the opportunity to contribute to their children's classrooms at the middle school level when they are no longer able to be present in the classroom (vs. elementary school volunteer slots). Stay away from gift cards and encourage specific items with links to where parents can see and purchase exactly what is needed. If gift cards are requested, teachers must submit a receipt indicating that the gift card was used to purchase the requested item.

School Supplies – Lisa Pratt

Lisa will take over this program next year. May look at a different supplier, but mindful that working with the same vendor used at Memorial helps bring participants over from fifth grade into middle school. Will connect with Memorial and Essex coordinators to see if they are open to a vendor change.

Budget Update – Michelle Pelletier

No expenses since November 30th meeting. Joanne will check on reimbursement requests for grade-level activities – Appleton Farms, Camp Spindrift and Project Adventure. Think about a May/June 8th grade activity – or are we doing the Trustees Volunteer Day again?

8th Grade Update – Michelle Pelletier

Bravo No-Cook Night on Tuesday, January 15. Bake sale at Winter Concert next Thursday, January 17; SignUp Genius will go out today. SkyZone fundraiser on February 6 (early release); still figuring out how to handle signup

Open Positions for 2019-2020 – Lynn Warnock

No current members except Lisa, Vicki and Jim will have middle school children next year, so we need to recruit new members for officer and volunteer positions.

Email was sent to Essex Elementary this week describing what PMEMS does, that it's less of a commitment than elementary PTO, and presents a great opportunity stay involved in the school community as your kids mature. No responses yet; Jim will reach out directly to individuals who might be interested. A similar email will go to Manchester Memorial PTO soon; Lisa will mention during 5th grade play rehearsals at Memorial; Joanne will mention at Middle School Orientation night in May.