

PTO Parent Meeting 9/15/2020

PES PTO Board: Colleen Badshaw, Heather Dwyer, Jill Wiebke, Chelcie Georgette, Evi Banks, Michele Friedeberg, Liz McConnon

PES Principal: Theresa Forish

Teacher Representative: Cindy Rosa

1. Welcome- Colleen Bradshaw

Welcomed and thanked all the parents for joining us. Introduced the new PES PTO

Board: Co-Presidents: Colleen Bradshaw and Heather Dwyer

Vice President: Jill Wiebke

Co- Treasurers: Chelcie Georgette and Evi Banks

Secretary: Michele Friedeberg

Member at Large: Liz McConnon

2. Teacher Report: Cindy Rosa was in class so could not attend; Mrs. Forish added to her report

3. Principal Report: Theresa Forish

- a. New nurse- apologized because she realized that the s'more newsletter from fall was left in her draft folder. Kathleen Johannes moved to the High School. Rachel Cronin is our new school nurse. She is great! Also a parent, her children attend GES.
- b. School year is off to a great start! Lunch and Dismissal have been the biggest challenges. But they are coming along. Thank you to parents for having their signs ready during dismissal to help the process.
- c. Volunteer Remote Learning is in full throttle. Kindergarten added math yesterday.
- d. Outdoor gatherings: lots of classrooms are heading outside throughout the day for lessons. Mrs. Forish was in one of the 2nd grade classrooms the other day and noticed how much longer things are taking. Teachers need to systematically have children go to the lockers to grab their towels to ensure that they are maintaining physical distancing while at the lockers. The kiddos and teachers are doing an amazing job with all the new procedures.
- e. Dismissal: Thank you to the parents for being so understanding yesterday about School Dismissal Manager being down. Everyone was so helpful yesterday once they knew it was down. Thank you!!
- f. 19th year here at PES and very thankful for all the positive feedback, even if it is a concern, all parents have been positive. Thank you!!
- g. Thank you to the PTO for the snacks that were laid out for teachers and staff. If you can believe it they are already almost all gone.
- h. Mrs. Forish asked if anyone had questions and let parents know that they are free to ask her anything during the meeting, this is what she is here for.

4. President Report: Colleen Bradshaw

- a. Outdoor Classrooms- Eagle Scout Jackson Rodgers organized a crew of volunteers to revamp our old outdoor classrooms.

- b. PTO funded 2 new Smart Boards for the school. Mrs. Forish let us know that the old boards still have not been repurposed yet to the cafeteria and the art room for use during lunch periods. The Kindergarten classrooms are using 2 in some rooms, to allow kiddos to see from wherever they are sitting. But as soon as they are done with them they will be moved to the cafeteria and art room.
 - c. This year will be different: not as many fundraisers (fall fundraiser, Virtual Mother's Day Plant sale, Ice Cream Social)
 - d. PTO will continue to fund: Pomperaug Pals, Virtual Author Visits
 - e. Please complete School Survey
5. Treasurer Report: Chelcie Georgette
- a. Start of the year report: received Amazon Smiles rewards
 - b. Fall Fundraiser: biggest one of the year, please be on the lookout for the links to donate to the fundraiser, Paypal and Venmo links will be sent out.
 - c. Passive Fundraiser: (Heather Dwyer- screen share to show parents how to access the links to our Passive Fundraisers located on the PES PTO website, <https://www.pespto.org/Prg/index.cfm?>)
 - i. Amazon Smile- can access it from the app on your phone, makes earning rewards for PES even easier!
 - ii. Stop and Shop: please remember to link your Stop and Shop card to PES. It may not seem like a lot, but last year together we received over \$5,000.00 for PES. So please take a moment to link your card.
 - iii. Box Tops- download the app, scan your receipt and PES earns rewards
 - iv. Mabel labels- great and easy to label all your child's belongings.
6. Board of Education Report: Heather Dwyer
- a. Informed us that she is also a BOE member. We would like to have a parent volunteer who is not on the BOE. It is nice to have a parent view of the BOE meetings. Meetings are being held virtually so it is easier to attend. Meetings are also recorded so parents can watch the replay when it is convenient for them. (Heather shared her screen and showed us how to access all previous meetings; agendas, recordings and minutes located on the BOE website.)
<http://www.region15.org/content/2002/2245/default.aspx>
 - b. BOE was very busy over the summer with everything going on. If you were not able to keep up to date: Many emails and meetings regarding the Phases of Openings for schools, Mandates required for openings, etc...
 - c. Parents can access future meeting dates via the BOE website (link above)
7. Committee Reports:
- a. Spiritwear: Jill Wiebke
 - i. Store was open for the first 2 weeks of school. Orders will be arriving shortly.
 - ii. Masks and lanyards are still available. Please let us know if you would like to purchase them.
 - b. Student Survey: Michele Friedeberg

- i. Sent out emails to some teachers yesterday, who have reached out to parents asking them to complete the survey.
 - ii. Spoke with Cathy Winter about the teachers that I did not have emails for. She said that the teachers are probably being bombarded with emails, so now I will be going through Cathy to let teachers know who we have received completed surveys from.
 - iii. As of 6:00 yesterday had only received info from about 100 students. Hoping to have more by this Friday, so teachers can pick Room Parent/s.
 - iv. Link to survey:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhP5qEVP5jLqKS7YUhy-9wkH7vIUJpKJTp989KT-ibDTLqZg/viewform>
- c. Ice Cream Social: Michele Friedeberg
 - i. So far we have about 25 orders.
 - ii. I texted parents yesterday to schedule a pick up for this week's orders. Options were Friday after 4, Saturday or Sunday.
 - iii. Going to get an email together to let parents know that they have till Thursday night to put in an order for pick-up for this weekend.
 - iv. Orders that come in after Thursday evening will be contacted to schedule pick-up for next weekend, might be able to do sooner depending on Arbana. But right now planning for the weekend.
- d. Hospitality: Colleen Bradshaw
 - i. We had our first event this week: filled staff lounge with snacks for everyone to grab as a thank you.
 - ii. Hospitality usually sets up lunches, snacks, grab and go things for teachers and staff at PES. With everything being so different this year, we are open to ideas of how we can continue to show our staff appreciation during the school year. Please reach out to PES PTO with ideas... pespto@region15.org
- e. Square 1 Art: Liz McConnon (Heather Dwyer presented)
 - i. Great fundraiser/program, allows children to create a variety of items using their artwork. Parents can purchase: magnets, bags, mugs, home decor, stationary and so much more that have been personalized with your child's artwork.
 - ii. Liz is trying to sort out a date that would work
 - iii. Everything will be done virtually which makes it easier for everyone. Simply have your child draw/create a piece of artwork, upload to Square 1 Art using the link that PES PTO will provide. Items ordered will be shipped directly to home.
- f. Outdoor Classroom: Heather Dwyer
 - i. As Colleen mentioned our old outdoor classrooms have been revamped. Thank you to Eagle Scout Jackson Rodgers, his family and all the volunteers.
 - ii. Originally Jackson was planning on creating a gaga pit for the play yard to earn his Eagle Badge but with everything going on we thought that putting our attention to the outdoor classrooms would be of better use.
 - iii. Previous Outdoor Classroom: farther from school, grown over and just wasn't fully used

- iv. New Space: Together with a team of volunteers, Jackson designed 3 outdoor classrooms. Each outdoor classroom is a little different design, Heather screen shared a photo of the area. All three have sun shades that were so graciously donated to PES and the area is decorated with colorful flag banners.
 - v. Teachers have been using them. Kiddos have been coming home excited to tell us about the new space.
 - vi. We would like to set-up a committee of volunteers to help with the maintenance of the area, so students and teachers can continue to use the area. Meaghan Edwards and Jessica Burke volunteered to join the committee. Please let PES PTO know if you would also like to be a part of the committee.
pespto@region15.org
8. Volunteer Needs: Colleen Bradshaw - Please reach out to pespto@region15.org if you would like to volunteer or have any questions/ideas about other opportunities to help out during the school year, any help is greatly appreciated. Together we will make this a fabulous school year!
- a. Outdoor Classroom Maintenance Committee: We had two parents volunteer during meeting thank you, Meaghan Edwards and Jessica Burke. Would like to have a committee of parents
 - b. Board of Education Liaison: _____
 - c. Yearbook Volunteers: _____ this year have asked teachers to take pictures and email them to us. We would like to have a few volunteers who can help sort through all the pictures to ensure that every student is pictured in the yearbook. Looking for help to work with teachers, software, uploading pictures, etc.
9. Questions/Comments: Colleen Bradshaw
- a. At this time there were no questions/comment
10. Meeting Adjourned at 10:05