



**Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: January 10, 2018**  
**Location: Bishop School Library**  
**7pm**

**Minutes**

- Welcome and Introductions –Meredith Dimola opened the meeting with a brief outline of the agenda. At the time of introductions the following Bishop community members were present: Mark McAneny, Jennifer Murphy, Meredith Dimola, Sarah Eastman, Anna Pisania, Ami Fatula, Deborah Kokinos, Sheelagh Stirling, Rosemary Foster

- Minutes from the November 2017 meeting approved by Sarah Eastman.

- **Principal's Update (Mark McAneny)**

There is no school Monday for MLK Day. Conference season is over. There were two afternoon sessions and one evening session. The teachers enjoyed meeting the parents and thanks to the PTO for providing lunch and dinner on those days. There have been two snow days so far and there are two more in the calendar before the last day rolls to the next week. The Commonwealth and District are starting to explore alternatives for snow days. Any change will have to be negotiated with the unions.

Mr. McAneny is a finalist for the Ottoson Principal position. He informed the Bishop staff on Sunday evening. He is scheduled to visit Ottoson on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> and will participate in a parent forum on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Security at Bishop was discussed. Mr. McAneny acknowledged there is a concern with security. Mr. McAneny has requested a proximity (swipe card) system for 3 doors. The District has priced it out and it will cost between \$30-40K. Due to budget constraints this does not seem feasible. Parents are also concerned that the back door during Bright Start is often unlocked and not monitored. Meredith Dimola asked if the community could fundraise for a security system and could a punch code system be installed for less? Parent at the meeting would like to mobilize a team of parents to resolve this issue. Mr. McAneny recommended we contact Mark Milano at Public Facilities. A parent stated that other schools in Arlington such as Dallin and schools in Lexington have security systems. Another idea to resolve the lack of security is to have the door supervised. Parent feels strongly about making this change.

- **Teacher's Update (Jennifer Murphy)**

Mrs. Murphy said that the Teacher's #1 priority is the safety of the children. Thank you to the PTO for the food during the conference days and the soap for the holiday gift. Teachers appreciate the conference time to meet parents. Any concerns with social, emotional or academic issues, please contact the teacher. Also, many great enrichment programs are happening over the next few months.

- **Co-President's Report (Sarah Eastman/Meredith Dimola)**

Meredith Dimola said a grant request came in from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for IXL. IXL is directly linked to the Common Core curriculum. There will be more information to come and we hope to get input from community.

- **Budget update (Ami Fatula)**

The PTO has raised 51% of our total goal and 75% of the Annual Fund goal to date. The Walkathon raised \$13,000. The remaining 49% of our goal will be raised from the fundraisers coming up: Bishop Night Out, Camp auction, and Bear Fair. The PTO has only spent 33% of the budgeted amount to date. Everything is tracking well. In regards to 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition, Rosemary Foster said in year's past that \$50 per student was budgeted which had been controversial due to difference in opinions of how the recognition should be funded. Ami Fatula stated that we will continually evaluate and forecast the budget, so we know where we need cut if needed.

- **Fundraising update**

Bishop Night Out will be Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be slightly different this year. We decided to look at the cost and what value do people get out of it. At Bishop Night Out, the camp auction will be launched. There will be live and silent auctions and Mr. Hamm will be playing a set. There will be beer and cheese tasting along with wine and chocolate tasting. Mrs. Murphy suggested asking Ms. Frank to be the auctioneer. Big ticket items will be auctioned off at the event. Parents suggested more exciting advertising to promote the event this year.

The Camp auction will go on-line on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Laura Fuller will be running it and Amy Moyer will be running the eBay site. Info cards will be available to take home and bidding will be until February 4<sup>th</sup>.

- **Upcoming Events/Volunteer Needs**

Science Night will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The event will have a display of student posters with questions they have researched at home, hands on demonstrations, and the egg drop contest. The event has grown each year and Rosemary Foster is looking for additional help from the Bishop Community. Some ways to volunteer are to create a hands-on demonstration, lead a hands on demonstration, organize the student

presentations, manage the egg drop contest, organize the pizza sales table, and print the certificates of participation. Rosemary Foster will be putting together information regarding the event and volunteer opportunities that will be sent home in backpack mail.

- **Public Comment**

1. Rosemary Foster would like to acknowledge the community for their generosity and help making Holiday Help successful.
2. Rosemary Foster is looking for two apprentices for Photo Day and Holiday Help next year to take over after her 5<sup>th</sup> grader leaves Bishop.

**THE NEXT PTO MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:30 AM IN THE BISHOP LIBRARY.**