



**Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: February 14, 2018**  
**Location: Bishop School Cafeteria**  
**8:15 am**

**Minutes**

- Welcome and Introductions –Sarah Eastman opened the meeting with a brief outline of the agenda. At the time of introductions the following Bishop Community members were present: Sarah Eastman, Jeannine Ranaghan, Deborah Kokinos, Jenn Davidson, Jean Clarke, Elena Jakubiak, Karin Varnik Barrett, Mark McAneny
- Minutes from the January 2018 meeting approved by Deborah Kokinos.
- Principal/ Teacher Update (Mark McAneny):  
The teachers thank the PTO for the checks that were distributed. Report cards will go home Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. MCAS planning has begun. Grades 3-5 will take the MCAS online. Everyone is very excited for the Lion King.
- School Board Chair, Budget Subcommittee Presentation (Kirsi Allison-Ampe):  
Every school has a School Counsel made up of parent, teacher and administrative representation. Principals meet with the School Counsel to determine budget priorities. Principals present needs to the Superintendent. The Superintendent, staff and principals create a first draft of the budget called the “Superintendents Budget”. The Superintendent presents a draft budget to the School Committee. The final budget will go to the Town Meeting for approval. Most of the funding for the school budget is from town revenue predominantly from property taxes. The town also receives money from the state called Chapter 70 funds. This year the requests to be added to the budget for the elementary schools are assistant principals, ELA coaches, math coaches, and full time TA’s for kindergarten. Many requests go unfilled due to lack of money and other items in the school budget that would need to be cut. Budget discussions are still underway. A final budget is expected to be approved by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Opportunities to provide feedback on the budget are: public participation at the beginning of School Committee meetings, attend Budget Subcommittee meetings, attend formal Budget Hearing (3/1/18). Send emails with comments to Budget Subcommittee Chair [kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:kallisonampe@arlington.k12.ma.us). Information for FY2019 budgeting is available at

<http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/administration/budget/>. Parents at the PTO meeting brought up concerns about security at Bright Start program due to the unlocked door, large class sizes at Bishop, more transparency about class sizes before parents make buffer zone requests, the need for TA's in kindergarten classes. Mr. McAneny said once he sees a class size hit 26 in the summer he calls the Superintendent to negotiate for the hiring of a large classroom TA.

This presentation can be found on the PTO website and additional copies of the presentation are available in the office.

- Budget update (Deborah Kokinos):  
Bishop Night Out and the Camp Auction were very successful. Bishop Night Out had 90 RSVP's. Suggestions were made for the camp auction to occur earlier in the school year. Teacher checks and Room Parent checks were distributed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. We have raised 75% of the annual fund goal thus far.
- Fundraising (Sarah Eastman):  
We will not be placing any new Spirit Wear orders for the rest of the school year. We will be working to sell the existing stock. Movie Night was a great success. Approximately 300 people attended.
- Public Comment/Questions:
  1. Comment from Jean Clarke – 5<sup>th</sup> grade recognition is coming up. Does the PTO contribute money for that event? Response from Deborah Kokinos – Yes, we have set aside \$3,500 for that event.
  2. Comment from Jen Davidson – The 1<sup>st</sup> grade needs new equipment for their chick hatching unit. Can the PTO fund a grant for that or can funds be used from the enrichment budget. Response from Sarah Eastman – Please submit this expense as a grant and we will approve it.

The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Library.