



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: April 12, 2017

Location: Bishop School Library

7 – 9 p.m.

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions:**

Heather Breslau opened the meeting with a brief outline of the agenda. At the start of the meeting the following Bishop Community members were present: Heather Breslau, Meredith Dimola, Principal Mark McAneny, Jenn Badua, Jeannine Ranaghan, Deborah Kokinos, Shannon Knuth, Rosemary Foster, Anna Pisania, Melina Salerno, Noelle D'Agostino, Lynne Aftuck, Mark Davila, and Katherine Reisz Hanson

- March 2017 meeting minutes were announced as on the website and a motion to approve the minutes as written was presented by Heather Breslau, seconded by Jenn Badua.

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

The Play performances went really well. Thank you to everyone that volunteered. Thank you to Anna Pisania for everything being done for staff appreciation week. Bishop Cleanup Day went very well. Thank you to Meredith Dimola for organizing the event. It was a very fun day and a great community event. There is some additional work being done to finish up the science kiosk and the Girl Scouts will be installing the buddy bench. Greg Wright's daughter is having a plaque made that will be installed outside the magnolia tree that was planted in Greg's memory. The MCAS are underway. It was decided not to have testing this week because of Passover. After April break the remaining MCAS sessions will be completed. Doing the testing online has been going really well. Placement for next year will begin after April break. A letter will go home to parents asking them for input. Just a reminder that parents cannot request specific teachers.

- **Teacher's Update (Lynne Aftuck):**

Thank you to the PTO for all of the teacher events this week. The chair massage was especially popular. The winners of the daily gift card raffle were Ms. Frank on Monday, Ms. Dempsey on Tuesday and Ms. Higgins on Wednesday. Kindergarten and first grade have enrichment on Thursday from Storytellers with Camp Harris. Tomorrow the garden planting begins. The kids are very excited about this.

- Co-President's Report (Heather Breslau/Meredith Dimola):

We agree that the Play was a great success. The Play Committee is going to regroup after April break to go through the parent surveys that have been submitted. We are hopeful Sarah Morrison will come back next year to direct the play again. The PTO has approved numerous grants this month. We have approved a grant for books for the 4th grade reading curriculum. This grant will be funding the purchase of 70 books which will be enough copies for every student. We have also approved a grant to fund 50% of the cost of a new gymnastics mat for Mr. Scopa. Mr. McAneny will be funding the other 50% from the budget. We approved a grant to fund the purchase of gift bags to thank the 2nd grade teachers for incorporating the Teosinte teachings in their classroom. Question from Rosemary Foster: I am involved in 5th grade recognition and in the past the 5th graders have done community service as a class. This year they will be going to Cradles to Crayons on June 21st. I plan to submit a grant to get support for the bus expense to transport that 5th graders to the Cradles to Crayons facility. Response from Heather Breslau: Yes, the Board has discussed this and once you submit the grant paperwork we will approve it.

Bear Fair – We seem to be in pretty good shape. Most leads from last year have agreed to come back and we have recruited many of the remaining lead positions. A few lead positions are still open. We will be posting these in the newsletter. Question from Rosemary Foster: Has a new date for the Used Good Drop Off been determined? Response from Heather Breslau: No, we have not picked a new date yet. Meredith Dimola was able to secure La Victoria to do the food at the Bear Fair. There will be 3 types of burritos. La Victoria is donating half of the food that day. We are very happy about this. It will be in substitution for the grilled food. We will still have pizza. Mark Davila said he will let Heather know when he needs the leads to start getting involved in the coordination. Question from Rosemary Foster: When will the raffle sales begin? Response from Heather Breslau: Probably the week after April vacation.

Katherine Reisz Hanson will be the lead for the Teachers Tea again this year. Katherine will talk to Mr. McAneny about picking a date and then send out save the dates. The Teachers Tea is usually done during the last two weeks of school. Katherine is also in the process of getting a carton of china donated to Bishop. Question from Shannon Knuth: Where would we store the china? Response from Katherine Reisz Hanson: It can be stored in the room downstairs or in my basement.

- Budget Update (Deborah Kokinos/Melina Salerno):

The budget is in very good shape. We are at 48% of income with the majority remaining from the Bear Fair. Expenses are at 66% which is where we should be. We had an uptick of expenses this month because of teacher checks being distributed. Last year we did not use all of the grant money we had budgeted. This year it seems we will use all of it. Rosemary Foster stated that she has additional expenses to submit from Science Night.

Shannon Knuth stated that she has expenses for Cleanup Day to be submitted. Katherine Reisz Hanson stated that she has expenses from the supply runs to Costco to be submitted as well.

- Fundraising Update (Shannon Knuth):

We should be getting our checks from box tops soon. We plan to do one more submittal of box tops before the end of the school year. We should also be getting a check from Stop and Shop for their school rewards program. Question from Katherine Reisz Hanson: We should ask the teachers to collect box top in the classroom. Response from Shannon Knuth: Yes, that is a good idea.

Announcements:

1. There are some PTO board positions open for next year (Co President, Co Treasurer, Fundraising Coordinator and Communications Coordinator). Please let us know if you are interested in a position or know someone that is interested. These openings will be posted in the weekly newsletter as well.
2. Field Day will be Thursday, June 1st. Jean Clarke is going to run the event again this year. It is being done on a Thursday this year because Kindergarten orientation is on that Friday.

- Public Comment/Questions:

1. Question from Shannon Knuth – What is the status of fixing the broken things on the playground? Response from Mr. McAneny: The items will get fixed over April break. Also, the basketball hoop has been removed and will be taken care of over the summer. The blacktop will also be resurfaced over the summer. A new sign will be put up on the other side of the school as well.
2. Question from Shannon Knuth: Will there be a watering schedule for all of the plants and trees that were installed during Cleanup Day? Response from Meredith Dimola: Yes, we are hoping to establish a watering schedule. I am hoping it is possible to have families adopt trees, etc. for the summer similar to what we do for the garden.
3. Katherine Reisz Hanson stated that she has been really impressed with the enrichment programs happening at Bishop. It has been really inspiring for her daughter to go to museums and to start stamp collecting. She also stated that she really liked the stone work that was done during Cleanup Day.

- Meeting Adjourned. The next Meeting will be May 10, 2017.