



Bishop School PTO Community Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Join via [Zoom](#)

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Co-Presidents: Laura Tikonoff (2nd year) & Anna Pisania (1st year)
 - Co-Treasurers: Kyle Chiang (2nd year) & Lindsay Pacheco (1st year)
 - Fundraising Coordinator: Tai Sokoloff (2nd year)
 - Room Parent Coordinator: Lindsay Sweeney (2nd year)
 - Communications Coordinator: Amanda Maltais (2nd year)
 - Recording Secretary: Jessica Nordgren (1st year)
- Reviewed and Approved of Minutes from June 2021 Meeting.
- **Principal's Update (Mark McAneny)** Welcomes and thanks the parents, teachers and board for joining. There is good attendance. There are Introductions from Mark, Eva Liner, Dorethy Schuette, Katie Martin, and the PTO board.
- Final Annual Report for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Christine Marko (former president) gives a summary of the past year. \$60,000 was raised last year and PTO spent approximately \$46,000. Most of the money was spent on enrichment. The Read-a-thon was very successful.
- It has been a happy and successful return. Everyone is working together to keep things moving smoothly.
- Arrival and dismissal of the students are a very involved part of the day. There are a lot of moving parts. Currently there are kids arriving on campus before 8:05am when there is no staff present. A reminder to parents please have kids arrive after 8:05am. If your child's dismissal plan is going to change please call the office no later than 1:00pm.
- Health and safety mitigations are in place and going smoothly.
- October 6th is curriculum night. There will be a hybrid version to keep numbers down. Class teachers, service providers and specialists will be holding an open house for 45 minutes. Mark has asked that 1 adult per family attend and visit the classroom to get an informal presentation. The other half of curriculum night will be a zoom presentation. Scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Thanks for the support and collaboration.
- **Parent question** - Any talk about replacement of the red playground? Town has pushed it off the agenda since 2010. Nothing planned and it is in the Parks and Recreation hands. Broken rope? Any news of it being repaired? The parts have been ordered and it can take some time to replace and fix.
- **Teacher's Update (Dorothy Schuette, PTO Teacher Representative)** Thanks to the PTO for the very generous checks and the recent breakfast. The teachers feel very supported by the PTO. Teachers are enjoying seeing the students from the past and present. Fun to see their faces again. Teachers are concerned about the social emotional health of their students. This is definitely on

their radar. Parents please reach out if you notice things missing or lacking from your child's well being. It has been observed that the kids have low stamina. Best thing parents can do is to keep a routine and make an early bedtime. Return to old habits. The teachers are preparing for curriculum night. If you are not vaccinated please only attend the zoom portion as courtesy to others.

- **Health and Safety Update (Katie Martin, Bishop School Nurse)** Things are going pretty well. We have had positive cases within the Bishop. Testing has been very successful. If school identifies a positive covid case the seating charts are looked at to trace close contacts. Binax testing every morning for 7 days for close contacts. 2 days of pool testing was too much so it was decided to spread it out over several days. Test and stay is only for exposure from **school**. Please keep sick kids home, this keeps everyone safe. There are many test sites up and running. A lot of places don't ask for insurance. Mental health - this has been hard for kids and parents. The kids have lost patience and stamina. There are big emotions for small things. This is not unexpected. It helps to keep kids on a schedule. Kids do best with healthy meals, exercise and a lot of sleep. Everyone needs to readjust their expectations. There are many ways the school is trying to support the students.
- **Parent question** - If there is a positive case when do we hear results? It is posted on the town dashboard on APS website. Another parent question - Define close contact? A close contact is indoor contact for 15 minutes within 6 feet. CDC based. Nurse Martin doesn't pick up the phone in her office. If you have an urgent message please call the front office.
- **Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) Funding Opportunities (Elissa Konomi)** The AEF was founded in 2010 and has raised \$100,000 a year. It supports Menotomy, Arlington Elementary schools, Gibbs etc. It is a grant that supports the staff in professional development. Garden was initially supported by AEF. Another example is AEF funded Brackett school for skateboards for the PE teachers. Pierce librarian got money for expansion of books about diversity. Anyone at Bishop can apply for a grant. Come to Elissa for help.
- **Co-Treasurers Update (Kyle Chiang/Lindsay Pacheco)**
- Presentation of 2021-2022 PTO Budget. Currently the PTO finances are in good shape and long term emergency reserves have been restored to \$15,000. The base cash for the 2022-23 board is in hand at \$10,000. Predicting fundraising is challenging this year. We looked at historical data to guide us for this year. Two years reflect typical school years 2017-2019 versus two years 2019-2021 reflecting pandemic years. Typical year PTO spends \$77,912. The proposed budget for 2021-2022 is \$63,600. We will take a conservative approach being mindful of the hardships in the community. Better to be safe. Read-a-thon recovered the loss of the last two years with no Bear Fair. PTO is hopeful to bring enrichment back. This year we want to spend more than we typically do because of surplus due to the success of the Read-a-thon. We were also able to give money back to the library to replenish books. Even if events don't come to fruition then we have a cushion.
- **Parent question** - Is used goods part of the Bear Fair? Budgeted separately.
- Vote to approve 2021-2022 PTO Budget- voted and approved. It will be posted on the website in a few days.
- **Co-Presidents Update (Laura Tikonoff/Anna Pisania)**
- Launch of PTO Annual Fund Campaign, one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. Look out for backpack mail. Make a donation you are comfortable with. This fund runs all year. Please donate as soon as you can.
- Teacher/Staff checks were distributed the week of 9/13. PTO gives our teachers a check in the fall and the spring to help cover their school costs. Hope to offset some of their personal spending.

- Event Leads and Fundraising Coordinator are working to plan events consistent with health and safety best practices- events will look more familiar this year. This year planning is to move forward with pumpkin sale and donuts, walkathon in person, etc. We are going to spread it out over two days to keep numbers lower. We aren't sure about spring - not sure what will happen although we are hopeful for more activity i.e. Bear Fair. More normal year for activities.
- Volunteer Opportunities - volunteering is a great opportunity to see old and new faces and a great way to get involved. Volunteers make it happen! Anything close to your heart. I.e. garden committee. Any recommendations please reach out.
- School Directory Plan, quite challenging to collect that info. Work with Mark and the IT dept. the info through power school. People can still opt in or out. But it would be helpful to have this information available to the community. For playdates, parties etc.
- PTO Grants funded in September: Scholastic/Storyworks and IXL (used in many classrooms)
- Reminder of Corporate match.
- **Room Parent Orientation (Lindsay Sweeney, Room Parent Coordinator)** We are hoping for a more normal year. It's great to be all together again. Detailed slides of the role of the Classroom parent- if you aren't a room parent you can leave the meeting now.
- Google form is the easiest way to collect info from class parents as room parents. Great if teachers can pass it along. If it's a big ask for the classroom, Lindsay Sweeney might need a grant. Keep track of what you are spending. Don't spend your money on paper towels, tissues, hand soap, glue sticks etc.
- Classroom funds are for Halloween party, Winter party, Valentines party, Teacher's birthday, staff appreciation week and end of year party. Work within your budget. Fill out a Cori form to volunteer in person at school. Available at the front desk in the office. Cori is good for 3 years.
- **Parent question** - Maybe make a master list of what teachers like , ie support staff and an admin.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Spirit Day – Thursday, September 30, 2021

Picture Day – Friday, October 1, 2021

Curriculum Night – Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 11, 2021

Pumpkin Sale – Saturday, October 16, 2021

NEXT PTO MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 @ 7:00 PM