



Bishop School PTO Community Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Join via [Zoom](#)
(Meeting ID: 862 8762 1334, Passcode: 556627)

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Co-Presidents: Anna Pisania (2nd year) and Mary Perry (1st year)
 - Co-Treasurers: Lindsay Pacheco (2nd year) and Leonie Lennon (1st year)
 - Fundraising Coordinator: Lori Sheehy (1st year)
 - Room Parent Coordinator: Julie Moscatel (1st year)
 - Communications Coordinator: Valerie Geary (1st year)
 - Recording Secretary: Jessica Nordgren (2nd year)
- Welcome - Introductions of PTO Board and Teachers (Mark introduces school staff in attendance). Parents do a brief introduction of who they are and their kids ages/teachers at Bishop.
- Review and Approval of Minutes from June 2022 Meeting.
- Principal's Update (Mark McAneny) - 14 new staff. Thank you to the PTO. We can't do all the amazing things at Bishop without all your help and support. Also want to thank Eva Liner(VP) She has been instrumental and done a lot of work over the summer with new hires. She trained all the support staff. Publicly thank her for her collaboration and everything she does for our community. Thank you Susan for being the teacher liaison. Thank you Nurse Martin. She is back doing some nursing this year, not as covid focused.
- Playground inspection is scheduled for tomorrow. There are still punch list items that need to be done. Hoping the playground can be opened before the punch list items are completed. It is refreshing to have some normalcy. There is a lot of laughing , new friendships being made in school. There is still remaining angst though. The curriculum is still demanding and throwing some kids sideways. However things are starting to even out. We are thankful for moving forward.
- Teacher's Update (Susan Ferguson, PTO Teacher Representative) thank you for the checks, supplies books, playground equipment. We really appreciate the PTO's support. The teachers appreciate all the supplies from families. It's so good to see everyone back.
- Health and Safety Update (Katie Martin, Bishop School Nurse) The wastewater numbers are going up. The school is not pool testing but focusing on families doing their own tests at home when kids are sick or have symptoms. If your child has any symptoms please test before you send them to school and if there are any symptoms wear a mask from home. It's really common for tests to become positive after a few days. Please test again if symptoms stay. Some mundane items - lice are back. With social distancing it wasn't spreading but now it is. She is talking to kids about self care, when to visit a nurse, and anxiety.

- Arlington Education Foundation (AEF) Funding Opportunities (Elisa Komoni) PTO should encourage the community to look up AEF. Anyone in the community can apply for a grant.
- Co-Treasurers Update / Budget review / approval (Lindsay Pacheco/Leonie Lennon) Last year was another great year. We have \$10,00 base cash. \$8,000 in teachers checks, we were able to bring new and old fundraisers back. We have met our conservative goals - baseline programs/needs. The hope is to fund additional teacher grants and requests. Capital spending - one time capital needs, Like Bishop garden renovation, tech grant for library AV equipment, several teacher grant requests. We should budget conservatively to fund our ongoing initiatives.
- Parent question - Danny L. What has fundraising looked like in the last 3 years? Past Bishop families who had history of Bishop events, new families don't have experience yet. It is hard to project now. Kindergarten through third graders don't have experience because of the pandemic.
- VOTE on the budget. Now is the time to speak up.
- Parent question - Matt M. Is the PTO ready incase there is another pandemic? Anna - we can't predict the future. But we have planned carefully and mindfully so we can support the activities that can happen at the school.
- Co-Presidents Update (Anna Pisania/Mary Perry)
 - Launch of PTO Annual Fund Campaign - back pack mail. The Annual Fund is the biggest source of income for the PTO. This money comes back to the room parents for parties, gifts for teachers, etc.
 - Teacher/Staff checks
 - Event Leads and Fundraising- planning on bringing back pre-covid events.
 - Volunteer Opportunities- we need volunteers. Volunteer opportunities can be small or big. The first initiative is original works. We are posting volunteer opportunities in a newsletter/website. We need volunteers for the pumpkin sale and Walk-A-Thon.
 - School Directory Plan - Christina and Niki are working on it - well oiled machine, should be available in November.
 - PTO Grants funded in September- Scopa asked for soccer balls. Please encourage teachers to apply for grants.
- Room Parent Orientation (Julie Moscatel, Room Parent Coordinator)
- Room parent role - communicate info to classroom families from teacher or pto, recruit volunteers for classroom celebrations, manage funds from PTO, teacher appreciation gifts, classroom needs.
- It's good to communicate with other grade room parents, share ideas. Room parents should work with the teacher on backpack mail.
- Room parents should introduce themselves to the teacher. Ask what classroom needs, classroom celebrations? Are there any games they would like added to PTO game library supplies? Give the teacher questionnaire, does your teacher have a parents email list or can they help you create one?
- Send out intro letter to families, your info, list of parties, inquirer about allergies, medical conditions, food products, annual fund reminder, staff appreciation week april 2023, PTO website, facebook stay tuned, teacher grade specific.
- Room parent funds \$250 early October and another \$250 check early spring. This money is used for class party teacher gifts, classroom supplies. Please cash asap!
- Don't use funds for these - (PTO buys this) paper towels, tissues, hand soap, glue sticks, disinfectant sprays, wipes. typical class events.

- Coordinate Halloween party, Winter party, Valentines party, teacher birthday, staff appreciation week and end of year.
- Room parents assist in soliciting parent volunteers. Sign up often online via sign up genius, teacher class responsible for one activity at bear fair.
- Staff appreciation- you only need to plan special treats, gifts or surprises for your teacher. For teacher gifts, suggest 3-5 gifts a year. December, birthday, teacher appreciation and end of year. Do not exceed \$150 total for personal gifts-state ethics law. Gifts to the classroom can exceed \$150. Classrooms have a no food policy. All visitors need CORI form.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Spirit Day – Friday, September 30, 2022

Picture Day – Friday, October 7, 2022

Indigenous Peoples' Day – Monday, October 10, 2022 (No school)

Pumpkin Sale – Saturday, October 15, 2022

Walkathon – Friday, October 21, 2022

NEXT PTO MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 @ 7:00 PM