



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: May 10, 2017

Location: Bishop School Library

7 – 8 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, Melina Salerno, Lynne Aftuck, Mark D'Avila, Courtney Zwirn, Maile Hedlund, Peter Hedlund, Amanda Maltais, Sarah Eastman, Jean Clarke, Rosemary Foster, Dineli Ahearn, Lorie MacBride

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

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

The Garden is officially open and it looks great. Abigail from Home Harvest is doing the instruction with the kids. Originally there was some concern about the sustainability of the Garden, but it definitely feels like there are enough people involved to keep it going. This is the third year of Bishop's three year permit. We will go in front of Parks and Rec to get the permit renewed. There are plans to install classroom seating in the Garden with granite from DPW. There are also plans to install a rinse station. The Bishop Garden is a model for the District and is sharing the Garden curriculum with other schools. Comment from Peter Hedlund: Parks and Rec is happy with the project and happy with the curriculum.

The 3rd grade just finished the last session of the math MCAS which completes the online portion. Next week the 5th grade will be taking the science and technology portion. Bishop is one of the few schools in the District that volunteered last year to have all grades take the MCAS online. This has been beneficial for the school. The kids have liked doing the testing on the computers. Question from Meredith DiMola: Do the kids know how to type? Response from Mr. McAneny: We have discussed integrating keyboarding skills into the 3rd grade. Next year the Librarians will teach it and will use a keyboarding software.

Classroom placement for next year is happening now. Teachers put a lot of effort and thought into the placement of kids. Liz Franchi is moving to California and will be taking a leave of absence next year. Interviews for her replacement are underway. There is one internal candidate as well as outside candidates. Potential candidates come in and teach a lesson and talk about their thinking behind the lesson which is very important. Mrs. Schuette will be going on maternity leave in a few weeks. Jennifer Sokolski will be taking over Mrs. Schuette's class for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Allen will be on maternity leave at the beginning of the next school year and will be back in January. We are looking into having some Lesley University interns as Teaching Assistants next year. The interns are completing their Masters Degrees with a focus in Special Education. Next year Bishop will be adding another Special Education Liaison. There will be three Special Education Liaisons for two grade levels and two Teaching Assistants attached to each Special Education Liaison.

- Teacher's Update (Lynne Aftuck):

The kids love being out in the garden. All of the teachers have really been focused on classroom placement for next year. As the school year begins to wind down end of year activities will start up in classrooms.

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

The Bear Fair is coming up. There are still many more volunteer slots to fill. Mr. McAneny will be sending out reminder emails to volunteer next week. The weather forecast is looking good for the 20th so far. Mark Davila will send out volunteer reminder emails to the classrooms next week as well.

- Budget Update (Deborah Kokinos/Melina Salerno):

Income for the past month has remained steady as expected. We are currently at 51% of the budgeted income which is where we expect to be. Expenses are at 77% of budgeted expenses.

- Announcements:

1. Co-President Position Available – The Co-President position is still available. Please let us know if anyone is interested.
2. Bear Fair – The Bear Fair is Saturday, May 20th
3. Teacher Tea – The Teacher Tea is scheduled for June 7th. Additional details will be in the newsletter this week. Katherine Reisz Hanson will be looking for people to loan china and tea pots, etc.
4. Field Day – Field Day is scheduled for Thursday June 1st.
5. Cause and Event 5K - The race is on Sunday, May 21st.

- Meeting Adjourned. The next Meeting will be June 7, 2017.