



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: April 11, 2018

Location: Bishop School Library

7pm

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, Meredith Dimola, Mark McAneny, Ami Fatula, Lindsey Baron, Anna Pisania, Heather Breslau, Jennifer Murphy, Nazila Salamat Miller

- Minutes from the February 2018 meeting approved by Sarah Eastman.
- Principal Update (Mark McAneny):
The Play was great. Thank you to everyone who participated. It's a very proud moment for students and parents. The Annual Greg Wright Clean Up Day is coming up next month. April 3rd was the first anniversary of Greg's passing. The staff invited members of Greg's family to school for a small gathering. MCAS preparation is underway. All testing will be done online. After April break classroom placement for next year will begin. Right now there are very high kindergarten enrollment numbers. Typically enrollment is between 400-430 and this year the number is 460 so far. We are hoping to keep Bishop's Kindergarten enrollment to around 70. Class lists for next year will not be circulated. Only a letter with the teacher's name will be sent out this summer. Everyone is also looking forward to the Bear Fair. Question – If the kindergarten enrollment numbers increase does Bishop have space for an additional kindergarten classroom? Response: The music room and art room are possible spaces to use.
- Teacher Update (Jennifer Murphy):
Thank you from the staff for the staff appreciation week activities. Everyone appreciates all of the thought that goes into this week. Report cards will go home the last day of school. There are no scheduled conferences but please reach out to the teachers if you would like to speak with them. Class placement starts right after April vacation. The teachers are trying to create a great balance for the kids. A lot of thought goes into class placements. The controlled evacuation on Tuesday went extremely well.

Thank you to Mark and to the Town of Arlington. The teachers had a lot of child friendly conversations about why the controlled evacuation was being done. Thank you to the enrichment team. There are a lot of great enrichment activities coming up.

- Budget Update (Deborah Kokinos/Ami Fatula):
So far the PTO has raised 65% of our budget this year. That does not include the larger events coming up such as the Bear Fair and Used Goods Sale. We think we will end up raising about 92% of our fundraising goal. The camp auction and walk a thon exceeded fundraising expectations. Question – Can the camp auction happen earlier in the year since many people sign up for camps in late December? Response: We can look into starting it earlier next year.
- Fundraising Update:
The Bishop Play committee met last week to debrief. A survey will be sent around to parents after April break. The Play committee will report back on the budget in May. Expenses for costumes, etc. are still coming in. This year stairs were constructed and also a new curtain as purchased. These were planned investments.

Science Night was on April 5th. It was very well attended and a successful event.

- Staff Appreciation Week Update (Anna Pisania):
There are 2 more days left for Staff Appreciation Week. It's great to hear the staff is enjoying everything that is planned. Friday will be the extended lunch. Parents have volunteered to cover the classrooms during this time.
- Open PTO Board Positions:
There are open PTO Board positions for next year. We are looking for a Co-President, Co-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Room Parent Coordinator, Communications Assistant and Fundraising Assistant. If anyone is interested or knows someone that may be interested please let us know. All positions have a 2 year term.
- Upcoming Events:
The Bear Fair is on Saturday May 19th (rain date is Sunday May 20th). Planning is going well. We have all of the lead volunteers in place. There will be some updates this year to the games. Small posters will go home in backpack mail. The volunteer website is being worked on.

Greg Wright Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, May 5th. We will create a sign up genius for volunteers. The event will be to clean up around the school. Used goods drop off will also happen on May 5th.

The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, May 9th at 7pm in the Library.