



Bishop School PTO Community Meeting Agenda
May 11, 2022 at 7PM
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)

- Review and Approval of Minutes from March 2022 - approved

- **Bishop Principal's Update (Mark McAneny)** Thank you - It's almost the end of the year. Today is Nurses Day. Last Friday we celebrated nurse Martin. Thank you to the PTO for the banner, flowers and getting the word out to the Bishop community.
- Ally Frank (5th Grade teacher) is leaving. Ms. Liner is currently interviewing finalists to fill her position. Some TA's might be moving on too. Some positions will be opening this fall. There will be a second opening for an English language teacher. There is an increased need due to more English as a second language students joining Bishop.
- MCAS season is almost complete. Tomorrow and Friday the 3rd graders have math and next Monday 5th grade has science and tech.
- We are participating in a new pilot and moving into planning next year. There is a lot of work that goes into Special education, caseloads and class placement etc. Hours are spent with the teacher teams figuring out placement for kids. They are looking for a balanced classroom. This is my favorite time of year and it's fun to talk about the kids. June is Kindergarten orientation for new kids. There are two sessions in the afternoon. It consists of "A day in the life of kindergarten". Kindergarten screenings are also happening June 22, 23.
- Playground update - construction will begin this summer. Currently bidding is in process right now. The three schools with playgrounds being renovated are Bishop, Stratton and Peirce.
- The Bishop Bear Fair is this weekend.
- A big thank you to the PTO from the staff for the Bishop swag! It was really appreciated. It was a very inclusive distribution.
- Question (Christina Marko) - Will there still be 4 classes that move into 4th grade? Lars Heinke will stay in 4th grade. Currently 80 students enrolled for 4th grade.
- Thank you Amanda Maltais for finding Amanda Munzey to run garden education. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with garden beds - they look great.

- **Teacher's Update (Dorothy Schuette, PTO Teacher Representative)** Bishop shirts were LOVED! There were a lot of compliments. The teacher's felt that staff appreciation week was wonderful.

Mark covered most of the topics. We are in the last stages of the school year and there is some anxiety about next year for students. This is good for parents to be aware and mindful of.

- **Richelle Smith, Director of METCO Arlington (new)** She is an alum and current parent with METCO.
- **Shayla Lowe (social worker)** Question for the group - Think about the friends that made an impact on you? What do you know about METCO? History of METCO - Boston wanted to desegregate schools. Schools used to be segregated in Boston. Black mothers went to school committees and advocated for change. Arlington was one of the first towns to desegregate. In 1966 surrounding towns took in Boston students. It started with black students but is now more open to different students. The demographic is changing in Boston. METCO is an integration program. It is lottery based and family's have no choice which town they are assigned to. It is based on space availability and it is not taking seats away from local students. There is a sibling preference. PTO and families - think of ways to build relationships with METCO families. Host socials to connect these families. Skating, ice cream social, etc.
- **Shayla counselor (social worker)** We should work on bridging communication and support students' social-emotional needs. How do we connect with our Arlington friends? Lunch bunch. Partnership with other counselors - create friendship groups.
- Will METCO families come to Bear Fair? They will be encouraged and will start to invite Arlington families to their local events.

- **Co-Treasurers Update (Lindsay Pacheco)**
 - March-April Budget Summary- There was a lot of questions at the beginning of the school year. Projected at the beginning of the year \$63,000 and by May \$69,000 thousand dollars had been raised already. The Bear Fair still hasn't happened yet. We have spent \$52,000 so far. Japanese story teller, science night cultural fest, 5th grade recognition, teachers tea. etc. There are many fun things coming up.

- **Co-Presidents Update (Laura Tikonoff/Anna Pisanía)**
 - PTO Grants/Items funded in March/April/May:
 - Staff Appreciation Week and T-shirts
 - Field Day Balls
 - Caterpillars for 2nd Grade
 - Donation to Live Animal Library
 - Bear Fair/Used Goods Sale this weekend! Looking for volunteers!
 - Garden Update - Alex and Amanda thank you. Amanda Munzey is now the garden educator.
 - Upcoming Elections for open Board Positions for AY22-23 School Year
 - Thank You Notes

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bear Fair and Used Goods Sale - Saturday, May 14th (rain date Sunday, May 15th)

Field Day - Thursday, June 2nd

Teacher's Tea - Thursday, June 9th (Bishop staff only - not a community event)

Fifth Grade Recognition - Thursday, June 16th

NEXT PTO MEETING: WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2022 @ 7PM