



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: November 8, 2017

Location: Bishop School Library

8:15 – 9 a.m.

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: Amy Markov, Katie Stencik, Deborah Kokinos, Carrie Cross, Skye Stewart, Emily Butler, Jenny Cutraro, Carla Henry, Meredith Dimola, Sarah Eastman, Mark McAneny, Jennifer Murphy, Katherine Reisz Hanson, and Laura Fuller
- Minutes from the October 2017 meeting approved by Deborah Kokinos.
- Principal's Update (Mark McAneny)
Thank you for the continued support from the PTO. The staff had a great professional development day on November 1st focusing on cultural competency and cultural proficiency. Afterwards the Bishop staff met with the new Assistant Superintendent and continued the discussion about cultural proficiency in the classroom and best techniques. At the next PTO meeting we will discuss the MCAS results. Bishop did extremely well this year. Teachers in all grades should be congratulated. Parents have received the results. Thank you for a great Walkathon and Pumpkin Sale. Please remember to dress your children appropriately for the cold weather. Outside recess continues if the temperature is above 20 degrees.
- Teacher's Update (Jennifer Murphy)
Thank you for all the support from the room parents. The Fall/Halloween classroom celebrations were great. Last Wednesday was a professional development day for the staff. It was a very powerful day. Dr. Anthony Mohammed spoke to the entire District about how to best discuss current issues with the kids while making them feel safe in their environment. Afterwards, Pam Watts from the Robbins Library met with the staff to talk about suggested books to help talk about diversity with the kids. Term 1 closes on November 23rd. Report cards are coming out December 3rd. Parent/ Teacher conferences are coming up. Teachers will be sending out sign ups to their class. There will be daytime and nighttime conferences.

- Co-President's Report (Sarah Eastman/Meredith Dimola)

The PTO has received thank you notes from teachers and students for the speakers and other items that have been funded this year. Everyone appreciates where the PTO funds are going. PTO grants have funded classroom subscriptions, a portion of registration fees for teachers to attend a Social Responsive Classroom conference and flexible seating for Ms. Capaldo's classroom. The Bishop Craft Fair is coming up on Thursday, December 7th. The library will be having a book sale December 11-15. Parents Night Out is coming up in January. This year we will be doing a silent auction at Parents Night Out.

- School Committee Presentation (Jennifer Susse)

Jennifer Susse is the Bishop Representative on the School Committee. Since 2000 enrollment in Arlington has increased 34% with elementary school enrollment increasing 43%. Since 2012 enrollment has increased 16% overall with an 18% enrollment increase in elementary schools. There are currently 5,630 students in Arlington. 77% of the District's budget is people. Over the last 5 years Arlington has taken rapid strides incorporating technology in the classroom. Arlington has been recognized in the State for taking such transformative steps. The District is now focusing on social emotional growth specifically incorporating the Social Responsive Classroom model into schools. Sara Burd has been hired as the District's Director of Guidance and Social Emotional Learning. Social emotional learning is primarily being rolled out in the elementary schools. Gibbs will also be a dedicated Social Responsive Classroom school. All 6th grade teachers are currently being trained. The main focus of the School Committee has been keeping the classroom sizes down and that has been a recommendation communicated from parents as well. Another top priority is trying to get full time aides in the Kindergarten classrooms. Question from Carrie Cross – How do you work on social issues that happen outside the classroom at recess and in the lunch room? Response from Mr. McAneny – I am very focused on what is happening in the lunch room. I am there the entire time to monitor the situation and make the lunch room a better place for the kids. Question from Meredith Dimola – Why doesn't the Library get funded by the District? Response from Jennifer Susse – Arlington relies solely on taxpayer money to support its schools because there are not large corporations in Arlington. It has been possible for the PTO at each school to support its own library each year so District funds can be used elsewhere. A list of District online resources will be posted on the PTO website.

- Budget update (Deborah Kokinos)

The Walkathon was a great success. We were hoping to raise \$10,000 and we have already raised \$13,000 and money is still coming in. The Pumpkin Sale was also a great success. Teacher checks of \$200 have been distributed. So far we have raised \$21,000 for the annual fund. This is 61% of what we budgeted for the year. After meeting with Allison and Justine from the Bishop Library it was decided that the Library will have an operational fund of \$1,400 which will be funded by the PTO each year. Additionally, the library will have a saving/capital fund which rolls over each year. The PTO will manage both of these funds.

- Fundraising (Sarah Eastman)

Spirit wear sales are going very well. An order has already been submitted. The next order will be submitted on December 1st. These items will come in time for Christmas.

There will not be a PTO meeting in December. The next PTO meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, 2018.