



## Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2021

Location: [Zoom](#)

7- 8PM

Attending: Principal Mark McAneny; Assistant Principal (AP) Eva Liner; PTO Teacher Representative Caroline Thom; PTO Board Members: Co-President Christina Marko (2nd year); Co-President Laura Tikonoff (1st year); Co-Treasurer David Brecht (2nd year); Co-Treasurer Kyle Chiang (1st year); Communications Coordinator: Amanda Maltais (1st year); Fundraising Coordinator Tai Sokoloff (1st year); and Recording Secretary: Neshe Gafuri (2nd year). Total of 7 members of the community attended. Regrets: Class Parent Coordinator: Lindsay Sweeney (1st year), not in attendance.

Introductions: Christina (PTO Co-President) welcomed all in attendance. AY 2020-2021 PTO Board members and all other community members in attendance introduced themselves to the virtual audience.

February 2021 Meeting Minutes: Christina Marko proposed a motion to approve the February 2021 Meeting Minutes. Laura Tikonoff seconded the motion and minutes were approved by a majority vote. These minutes are posted on the PTO website.

### Principal's Update:

- All systems and structures are in place. Bishop staff have been incredibly amazing, collaborative, and resilient during COVID-19 public emergency. Mark is thankful for the staff and all their work, understanding, flexibility, and hours that they continue to put in
- While Bishop has been short approximately 3-4 staff most of the year, over the past month the school has been able to hire additional support staff and is now fully staffed
- Updates regarding April 5th combined cohort reopening:
  - Huge thanks to custodians, who worked to move things stored in gym/cafeteria into storage pods
  - Adjustments planned for lunch/recess during inclement weather days to accommodate distancing for eating
  - Reinstalled outdoor tent with cafeteria tables underneath for lunch and outdoor classroom space
  - Specialists returned to building to deliver live instruction to in-person students
  - Specials for last quarter are being scheduled to ensure that all classes have each special at least once; some classes have to repeat specials
- Pool testing remains in place with 98% participation rate for students and staff; Grades K-2nd test on Mondays and Grades 3rd-5th test on Tuesdays
- No longer releasing negative pool results; only informing if positive
- Plan to continue with pool testing for foreseeable future
- Staff are receiving vaccinations, most are fully vaccinated or between middle of first and second doses; thanks to parent organizers Rachel K. and Lindsay P. and the volunteers who assisted with obtaining staff vaccination appointments

### Remote Academy Update:

- With April 5th combined cohort reopening, just over 80 students moved from Remote Academy to in-person learning over the 7 APS elementary schools
- At Bishop, only few students moved from Remote Academy to in-person learning; no major effect on any one class or grade
- Currently, approximately 735 students in Remote Academy across APS elementary schools
- Materials pick-up time changed to 12PM-1PM to accommodate in-person students on campus
- By the cafeteria door we do have a tent and we have bright start program in the afternoon on Wednesdays

### PTO Teacher Rep's Update:

- Reported that first day back with combined cohort reopening felt like the first day of school again
- Students seemed happy to be back and were adjusting to new schedule
- Shared an anecdote with the community--Several months ago one of her students had said to her: *“one of my wishes is that we all get to be together before the school year ends.”* At the end of the day on the first day back, the student came up to her and said: *“our wish came true!”*

Co-Treasurer’s Update:

- Introduced Kyle as a newest member of the PTO board, who recently joined in the role of Co-Treasurer
- David gave an update on the budget, reporting that the PTO is able to fund all the budgeted expenditures that were identified at the beginning of the year
- Additional Annual Fund contributions continue to come totaling just over \$30K; received approximately \$2K in corporate match support from 5-6 different companies this year. David thanked all who donated and acknowledged companies that matched donations
- First Annual Bishop Readathon was a great success, generating \$14K in funding for the PTO and helping students get focused on reading. Fantastic support from the teachers and staff, and huge thanks to Tai S. (PTO Fundraising Coordinator), and parent Readathon coordinators Grace J. and Sarah P. for their efforts in planning and organizing this outstanding event
- Bishop PTO budget is in great shape for next year

Class Parent Coordinator Update:

- Laura shared plans for Staff Appreciation Week. Lindsay S. (Class Parent Coordinator) has been working very hard to plan and organize events for the week:
  - Postcards to be sent out to children to write to teachers and staff
  - Meals throughout the week
  - Daily raffle drawing for gift cards
  - Sidewalk chalk messages for teachers to see on Monday AM
  - Individual class parents are also planning things for teachers and staff

Co-Presidents Update:

- Christina shared that the PTO has been providing teacher/staff appreciation gestures, including:
  - Donuts/coffee (February)
  - Chocolates for all staff (March)
  - Bagel brunch for Professional Development Day (March)
- Supplies were re-stocked by Lalana K. (supplies coordinator) and should cover the rest of the school year
- Laura shared the grants funded since our last meeting in February, which include:
  - Professional Development Conference Attendance for Ms. Nolan
  - Additional mentions: DIG program “Understanding Our Differences” and garden prep/programming in the Spring
- Christina announced the PTO will be holding elections for the AY2021-2022 school year to fill 3 open Board Positions: one Co-President position; one Co-Treasurer position, and the Recording Secretary position. Elections will be in May and conducted via eVote
- Planning underway for committee/coordinator leads for AY2021-2022 as well. Committee leads/coordinators are vital to planning and organizing various PTO initiatives/events throughout the year. If leads are vacating positions, will need to fill them for next year

Thank You Notes:

- PTO received several thank you notes for teacher/staff appreciation gestures (donuts, bagel brunch, chocolates, etc.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Staff Appreciation Week - April 12 -16
- April Vacation - April 19 - 23
- Greg Wright Annual Spring Clean Up Day - May 2nd from 9AM - 12PM

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT PTO MEETING: WEDNESDAY, June 9, 2021 @ 7PM

Minutes by Neshe Gafuri, PTO Recording Secretary