



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes
Date: March 4, 2020
Location: Bishop School Library, 7-9 p.m.

- **Attending:** PTO Rep - Caroline Thom (3rd grade teacher); PTO Board Member: Co-President-Elisa Komoni (2nd year); PTO Co-President-Christina Marko (1st year); Co-treasurer: Karin Moellering (2nd year); Co-Treasurers: David Brecht (1st year); Communications Coordinator: Junko Nagano (2nd year); Room Parent Coordinator: Laura Tikonoff (2nd year), and Recording Secretary: Neshe Gafuri (1st year); **Regrets:** Principal - Mark McAneny, not in attendance for this meeting
- Eight members of the Bishop Community attended, including Bill Hayner School Committee member representative
- **Introductions:** Elisa (PTO Co-President) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and all in attendance introduced themselves
- **January 2020 meeting minutes** announced as on the website and Junko Nagano made a motion to dispense to reading the minutes and then approve as is, approved by Laura Tikonoff, and seconded by Elisa Komoni
- **Teacher's Update (Caroline Thom)**
 - Started the update by thanking all the parents that volunteered at lunchtime on the election day on Tuesday
 - MCAS update for those parents on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade the dates will be posted on the principal's updates
 - They begin with 3rd grade April 1st and 2nd, and will be asked if possible, to avoid taking trips during those dates unless, of course, there is sickness
 - There will be 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers practicing
 - There was a letter sent to families from superintendent on behalf of the department of transportation regarding a safety needs/ transportation survey - the letter will be added to the newsletter by Junko, PTO communications coordinator
 - On behalf of all the teachers thank you for the PTO checks – timing is also always perfect very, very much appreciated
 - An update on Mr. McAneny (who was hospitalized for several days), he appreciates everybody's get well wishes, he is doing much, much better and continues to do well, he should be back next Tuesday (March 12th)
 - In the meantime, Ms. Liner has stepped up and has taken a positive leadership role
 - Parent expressed concern about a music room where the roof is leaking, the panels are still off, and appears to be a safety concern

- This same parent reported that she took a video and emailed to Mr. McAneny, and it is believed by this parent that work order has been put in place and was requested that in Mr. McAneny's absence the status of the order be followed by Ms. Thom
 - Junko asked that Ms. Thom also give an update on the therapy dog
 - Ms. Thom reported still waiting; Social Worker at NEADS said that it is definitively worth a wait because it is all about matching the right dog to the right person
 - Estimated wait time is approximately one year
 - Ms. Thom was accepted to the program last August – thus it could very well be that this August the dog will be here
 - Elisa asked if Ms. Tom has been able to raise any \$ -
 - Ms. Thom reported she raised a total of \$1400 so far, but it appears that it has slowed down because it is hard to raise funds specially without being able to see the dog – but the \$8000 is not needed upfront to get the dog it can be collected throughout the 2 year period after the dog has arrived
 - Ms Thom also informed for those interested; an individual has donated \$5000 to the organization that will be used to match the funds on Monday until the they run out of the \$5000 donated
 - Parent followed up on the email that was sent couple of months back with respect to a food delivery service causing confusion at Bishop, and thus the identified need for security camera as well as a signage to direct people to the correct entrances at Bishop
 - Another parent addressed the need for more than one police on the voting day while the school is in session – there was only one policeman this past Tuesday
 - Junko asked if the kids seem concerned about corona virus
 - Ms Thom reported that there is more awareness about handwashing but no fears or worries, and that the school nurse is staying on top of things, but in worst case scenario the meeting will be called for remote school planning etc
 - Elisa also reported that supply coordinators have shared that the supplies for hand sanitizer are running out and the demand for them has increased and the supply coordinators are not getting the orders on time
- **Co-Treasurers Update (David Brecht/Karin Moellering)**
 - Karin reported that the PTO has raised almost \$60,000 out of \$83,100 that PTO has targeted for this academic year
 - Weather permitting, we could almost get the remaining funds with Bear Fair, but there is backup / a reserve if needed
 - There is still gap on the annual fund, thus PTO will need to send another note out
 - From that point of view, it appears that PTO can support everything that has been planned
 - On the expenditure side additional enrichment activities are coming in
 - Also, the garden is typically a spring cost item, recognitions, and ongoing support for classroom supplies also continue to come in- PTO expects to be able to support at the level planned
 - **Co-Presidents Update (Elisa Komoni/Christina Marko)**
 - Within the past couple of months few events took place; the movie night was in January; Camp Auction was also in January; both being successful events
 - A new event was held this year - Pizza DIG party
 - Dance and social event the next day - with a new DJ – overall very well attended

- Announced and went over vacant PTO Board positions including Fundraising position which was not filled last year, and the rest of the PTO Board members had to cover for this position
 - These positions will be advertised on the newsletter, & will be going home via backpack mail
 - The plan to fix the school fence is in place as it currently has a hole in it
 - Grants approved - \$500 for DIG cultural fest
 - Grant approved for Boot scrubbers to keep the environment clean
 - Announced that Bear Fair is also looking for co-coordinator position, and a person or family to shadow current volunteers as they are leaving their current position
 - Adding additional PTO meeting on April 1st d/t highly recommended guest-speaker
 - Thank You Notes were read by Christina
 - Get-well card sent to Mr. McAneny from the Bishop community by Ms. G
- **Bill Hayner School Committee Representative**
 - Introduced self as a member that is coming from the facilities subcommittee and as a school committee member
 - Distributed a memo of the facilities
 - Bill is reaching out to each school individually to find out what is happening and to give an update on what works have recently been completed, on-going, and future works
 - Bishop only had works recently completed and future works category on this memo but there was nothing in the on -going category at present time
 - Bill additionally offered to take any questions from the Bishop community back to the School committee
 - Shared that the town is dealing with brand new high school, and explained that the funding for the high school does not come from the town but rather the state and it is required that 52 acres are available to build a school, but the requirement got waived d/t lack of land in Arlington
 - Reported Gibbs has been done, now Bishop needs work done, and added while Bishop is not a 'sick' building is not one of the 'healthiest' buildings in town either
 - Capital planning will consider, and stated that Bishop has his full support
 - Parent brought the above-mentioned concerns RE: music room leaking, and the need for signage/speaker to direct people to the right place and gave the above-mentioned example of the food service delivery person, and also thanked for the three buzzers that have recently been installed in the school
 - Bill emphasized that the answers should be coming back from the school committee to Bishop community through Bishop principal, and highlighted that safety/health issues need to be brought to principal immediately and they will be rank ordered accordingly
 - Elisa brought up the need for some of the old water fountain filters to be changed
 - Bill noted that all Bishop water fountains will be checked for taste and age
 - Karin inquired if there are any plans to accommodate for growth
 - Bill reported that Arlington can only grow vertically going forward d/t lack of land – absolutely no land at all available, and added that the idea of neighborhood schools will not exist in 20 years from now if we continue growing at the rate that we grow now

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spirit Day – 3/6
- DIG Cultural Event – 3/14
- Family and Friends Potluck Dinner (Rainbow Coalition) – 3/19

- Bishop Play – 3/27,3/28,3/29
- Shop at Wilson Farm Day – 3/31
- Eat Not at Your Average Joe's – March Tuesdays

Next Board Meeting: Monday, TBD, 7pm, Elisa's House
Next PTO Meeting: April 1, 7pm, Bishop Library