



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2020 at 7PM
Zoom

Attending: Principal - Mark McAneny; PTO Rep - Caroline Thom (3rd grade teacher); PTO Board Members: Co-President Christina Marko (2nd year); PTO Co-President Laura Tikonoff (1st year); Co-Treasurer David Brecht (2nd year); Communications Coordinator Amanda Maltais (1st year); Fundraising Coordinator Tai Sokoloff (1st year); Class Parent Coordinator Lindsay Sweeney (1st year); Recording Secretary Neshe Gafuri (2nd year), and eight additional members of the Bishop Community. Regrets: Co-Treasurer Kyle Chiang (1st year); Assistant Principal (AP) Eva Liner

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

April 2021 Meeting Minutes: Christina Marko proposed a motion to approve the April 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

- Currently screening incoming kindergartners for AY21-22
- Interviewing for an additional 3rd grade classroom teacher interview process still going on; 7 initial candidates were narrowed down to 3 finalists. From the 3 finalists, 2 came in for demonstration lessons this week. Plan to announce the finalist either end of the week or first of next
- MCAS wrapped up this week
- Reported on summer maintenance/renovation work is being planned - some updating with tiles & paint in the building
- Engaged in conversations with leadership/staff around welcoming back our all Bishop families in the fall; can't wait to welcome back our Remote Academy families that we've missed so dearly; recognize some of the remote families have felt neglected and left out
- 5th Grade Recognition Ceremony will be June 17th at 1:30PM, and will include Remote Academy students and their families outside on the Bishop field
- Whole school Den Meeting on June 23rd, with the last day of school on June 24th (11:30AM dismissal with no lunch being served)
- Mark thanked the entire Bishop community for their collaboration and support through this challenging time--while the teaching staff at Bishop are heroes, so are the families. Extremely grateful that we all have been on this journey together
- Thanked Christina Marko for her two years of service as PTO Co-President; welcomed Anna Pisanian as incoming PTO Co-President

Teacher's Update (Caroline Thom)

- Shared reflections of the past year; thanked the Bishop community on behalf of the teachers for all the support they received this year
- Children have been incredible and resilient all year
- Shared that a silver lining for her this year has been the amazing experience of teaching in a hybrid program, which allowed for small groups in the classroom as students were divided into two cohorts
- Thanked the enrichment committee for the 3rd grade enrichment activities and was happy we could run enrichment programming this year (even if virtual in some circumstances)

Co-Presidents Update (Christina Marko/Laura Tikonoff)

- PTO received a couple of grant requests that were funded in April, May and June:
 - o Field Day supplies for Mr. Scopa
 - o Wedge gym mat for PE program (Mr. Scopa)

- PTO board is planning for a capital project in the garden to rebuild the planting beds; new shed to be built by rising Eagle Scout over the summer
- Laura shared thank you notes, including one from Rebecca Bell thanking the PTO for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, which was coordinated by Lindsay Sweeney

President/Treasurer End of Year Summary (Christina Marko/David Brecht)

- PTO is working on a final budget and end of year report, which will be published on the PTO website once the FY closes at the end of June
- Pandemic greatly altered the landscape in AY20-21; PTO tried throughout the year to be mindful of the needs for each learning model (hybrid, remote, combined cohort in-person) and tried to provide support where it could
- Acknowledged that many of PTO activities were simply unable to run due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19 pandemic, such as Welcome Back Picnic, Movie Night, Science Night, and Bear Fair; remain hopeful that some of these events will return in AY21-22
- Discussed some events that were held, but reimagined during COVID-19 pandemic: Virtual Walkathon, Pumpkin Sale, Used Goods Sale (smaller scare event, not linked to Bear Fair), Teacher and Staff Tea
- Creation of new event this year--Read-A-Thon--which helped to provide additional PTO revenue and cover for that lost by events which had to be cancelled. Thanked Tai Sokoloff (PTO Fundraising Coordinator) and Read-A-Thon coordinators, Grace Judge and Sarah Phoenix, for all their work in putting together this event
- Saw return of Bishop Garden in the spring, led by Meredith DiMola
- Financially, the PTO is in good shape as we approach the end of AY20-21 and move into AY21-22
- This year, the PTO was able to:
 - Issue fall and spring teacher checks and add in an additional classroom parent check in the spring that was not initially budgeted
 - Fund multiple grants, including classroom subscriptions, social distancing markers, flexible classroom seating, a new gym mat, and additional library funding to replace books that were not returned. Monitors were donated to be used as a second monitor for remote instruction
 - Purchase classroom supplies including tissues, paper towels, pencils, gluesticks, etc. that were stocked throughout the year
- Have funds to cover all currently budgeted items through the rest of the AY20-21 school year
- Project to have a budget surplus at year's end--to be earmarked for capital upgrade to the Bishop Garden following fall harvest season in AY21-22

Installation of AY21-22 Incoming PTO Board Members (Laura Tikonoff)

- Laura shared the results of the virtual election and introduced/welcome the new board members for their two-year terms:
 - Anna Pisania - Co-President
 - Lindsay Pacheco - Co-Treasurer
 - Jessica Nordgren - Recording Secretary
- Thanked outgoing board members for their service, as well as Ms.Thom for being the PTO teacher representative, and Principal McAneny for his ongoing support to the PTO Board
- Highlighted the need for diversity, equity and inclusiveness to be supported and fostered.
- Re-emphasized the need to be creative/flexible with the budget while targeting what is needed
- Thanked the Bishop community for their support during this challenging year and wished everyone a great summer break

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DIG End-of-Year Playground Meet-up - Sunday, June 13th @10AM-12PM
 Field Day (Grades 3-5) - Wednesday, June 16th
 5th Grade Recognition Ceremony - Thursday, June 17th @1:30PM
 Last Day of School - Friday, June 24th

Meeting Adjourned

Next Board Meeting & Next PTO Meeting: TBD

Minutes by Neshe Gafuri, PTO Recording Secretary