



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2016

Location: Bishop School Library

7 – 9 p.m.

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions**
Meredith Dimola opened the meeting with a brief outline of the agenda. At the time of introductions, the following Bishop Community members were present: Heather Breslau, Meredith Dimola, Shannon Knuth, Lynne Aftuck, Jen Davidson, Melina Salerno, Jenn Badua, Anna Pisania, Jeannine Ranaghan, Deborah Kokinos, Rosemary Foster, Skye Stewart, Mark Davila, Laura Pierce, Maile Hedlund
- September 2016 meeting minutes were announced as on the website and a motion to approve the minutes as written was presented by Heather Breslau, seconded by Jenn Badua.
- **Principal's Update (Mark McAneny)**
Mr. McAneny was not able to attend the meeting tonight. Mr. McAneny sent a message which said the school year continued to go well. There is a strong positive vibe in the building and he is thankful for what the PTO has done so far this year. The PTO has approved grant requests for the last 3 projectors and approved a grant request for a Third Grade reading program for \$2,600. The PTO has also donated a new Keurig coffee machine and toaster oven to teachers' room.
- **Teacher's Update (Lynne Aftuck)**
Thank you for the toaster oven and coffee machine for the teachers' room. The past couple of weeks have felt somewhat disjointed because of the days off but now things will get back on track.
- **Co-President's Report (Heather Breslau and Meredith Dimola)**
The PTO has approved funds needed to complete the installation of the basketball hoops that were donated by a previous fifth grade class. The basketball hoops should be installed before the winter. The announcement kiosk in the playground will be rehabbed in the spring and will be used for posting announcements, etc. The Garden is off to a great start. The Garden team will present their plan for the year at the next PTO meeting. The School Play will be announced in November. Interviews for a new Director

are underway. There are currently three qualified candidates. A decision is expected to be made within the next week or so. The plan is to announce the new Director, Play and schedule of performances at the next PTO meeting.

- Fundraising update (Shannon Knuth)

There are three fundraising events coming up. Walkathon is tomorrow (October 14th) after school. The thank you gifts for the students participating are collapsible water bottles which will be distributed next week. There is strong student registration for the Walk a Thon and there are many fifth grade parent volunteers. Saturday (October 15th) is the Pumpkin Sale. The Pumpkin Sale is a fourth grade event. There are still a few open volunteer slots for the Pumpkin Sale. The Original Works fundraiser is also coming up. Flyers will be sent home via backpack mail tomorrow (October 14th) and are due back October 25th. The Craft Sale is starting to be planned for December 8th. Student crafters have not been solicited yet. That will happen once the adult crafters have been finalized. Heather Breslau, Jen Davidson and Anne Thompson will be the leads for the Craft Fair this year.

Question – Are there samples of the Original Works? Response – Yes, there are some samples in the flyer. Question – Does the money for the Original Works come through the PTO? Response – Yes, the checks come through the PTO.

- Budget Update (Melina Salerno/Deborah Kokinos)

We are off to a good start. The Bishop Annual Fund has already raised \$2,500 (through the end of Sept). Spirit sales to date are \$2,500. The budget is currently showing a loss because of the large spirit sales order that was placed at the beginning of the school year. \$2,100 has been spent on classroom supplies. The budget is currently at 2% of annual projected income and 7% of annual projected expenses.

- Enrichment Presentation

Presentation will be available to on the PTO website.

In summary – the presentation described what the Enrichment Committee does and detailed the grade level activities that are funded.

Question – A lot of the enrichment activities seem focused on science and math. Is it possible to have others that focus on health and music? Response – It really depends on what the teachers would like to see. The teachers feel that science makes the most sense because the enrichment activities are able to highlight and support the curriculum. In the past we have also done social studies and art enrichment activities.

Question – When do the enrichment activities occur? Response: The enrichment activities occur during the school day.

- Community Announcements

Arlington Board of Youth Services – Justine Bloch, a board member, will attend the November PTO meeting to discuss the organization and upcoming events in more detail. The Arlington Board of Youth Services is hosting its 6th Annual Out on the Town Gala to support the Arlington Youth Counseling Center (AYCC) on November 17th from 7-10pm at Arlington Town Hall. David Axelrod will be the guest speaker at the event. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 per person.

Arlington Parent Forums - A group of Arlington parents and Arlington school employees who organize various presentations, movies, and events that are informative to parents in the community. The PTO contributes \$250 a year to the Parent Forums. There are Parent Forums scheduled throughout October and November. More information can be found at www.arlington.k12.ma .

Arlington Orthodontics is once again having the Halloween candy buyback program. The business pays \$2 per pound of candy (max 5 pounds of candy per person) and commits to giving a matching donation to their school's PTO. The candy collected is donated to the military overseas. Last year the Bishop PTO earned \$500 from this program.

Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) – A group that acts as a resource for parents of children with special needs and advises the district regarding meeting the needs of students with special needs. SEPAC holds monthly meetings at the Jefferson Cutter House. More information can be found at <http://www.arlington.k12.ma.us/sepac/aboutus.html>

Family Equality Council – Mark Davila (Bishop Parent) will be hosting a fundraising reception at his home on Saturday, October 22nd from 5-7pm. The reception will offer the opportunity to meet the new Executive Director, Stan Sloan, and hear his vision for the Family Equality Council. All are welcome and the funds raised at the event will go toward the organization's work to advance equality for LGBTQ families across the country.

- Public Comment/Questions

Rosemary Foster organized Photo Day this year. She expects the photos to come in soon. Photo retake day is Nov 17th.

- Meeting Adjourned. Next Meeting is Wednesday November 9th.