



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2017

Location: Bishop School Library

7 p.m.

Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions:**

At the start of the meeting the following Bishop Community members were present: Anna Pisania, Meredith Dimola, Lynne Aftuck (teacher liaison), Principal Mark McAneny, Jenn Badua, Deborah Kokinos, Mark DaVila, Megan Bloch, Matt Reck, Marissa Martin.

Meredith DiMola opened the meeting by introducing School Committee Representative Paul Schlichtman who gave a presentation about the FY18 school budget.

- **School Budget Presentation:**

Mr. Schlichtman is the Bishop liaison to the School Committee and, as such, stated that he is happy to be available to the community any time. His presentation can be found on the PTO website at

- **Minutes approval:**

Anna Pisania motioned to approve the January 2017 PTO meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jenn Badua and subsequently approved.

- **Principal's Update (Mark McAneny):**

Mr. McAneny complimented DPW regarding their work to clear the snow and ice after the unexpected conditions on Feb 8. Last week some 4th grade students were selected to participate in a national assessment. Two Arlington schools were chosen, Bishop and Ottoson, which, Mr. McAneny stated, was an honor. Part of the test was paper based and part was conducted on a tablet. The students who took the assessment said they felt confident that they knew the material and felt they did well.

MCAS dates were made public in the Principal's Update. Be sure you're 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are here on those dates.

Mr. McAneny felt that the Bishop Night Out (BNO) organized by the PTO was a success and thanked the organizers.

- Teacher's Update (Lynne Aftuck):
Ms. Aftuck agreed that BNO was fun. "Hundredth Day" is now Monday because of snow day.
- Co-President's Report (Meredith DiMola):
See calendar of upcoming events
- Budget Update (Deborah Kokinos):
The Annual Fund is tracking to 76% of its budget. BNO covered its costs, as did Movie night. (Both are community events and not intended to be fundraisers.)
- Public Comment/Questions:

Jenn Badua asked Mr. McAneny if there had been some sort of statement made to the students about recent immigration issues in the press since her son came home asking about it. Mr. McAneny explained that he had made no statements to the students, but that he had emailed staff to offer to meet with them to discuss how to support each other and the students should the issue surface during the school day. He felt that as leader, he needed to acknowledge the situation and assure the students (if need-be) that we are one community.

Meredith DiMola mentioned the idea of a "Buddy Bench" to encourage kindness. The idea is that if a student is feeling lonely or sad that they would sit on the bench and then be joined by other students. There are discussions about whether or not incorporate it in to our school.

In response to a question from Anna Pisania, Ms. Aftuck explained that the First Grade had a session on Personal Safety last week where they learned about good touching and bad touching. A letter went home in backpack mail.

- Meeting Adjourned. The next Meeting will be March 8, 2017.