



Bishop School PTO Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2015  
Meeting location: Bishop Library

1. Present: Rosemary Foster, Heather Breslau, Jean Clark, Renata Thomas, Skye Stewart, Sara Sontag, Maile Hedlund, Shannon Knuth, State Representative Sean Garbally, Melina Salerno, Anna Pisania, Thierry Oprand, Tricia, Mary McCabe-Golden, Christina Matthews, Sue Boland, Dave Doherty, Eric Scharrf, Amy Speare, Sunita Yelleswarapu, Katherine Reisz-Hanson, Jen Badua, Sevak Melkonian, Peter Heffernan.
2. Renata Thomas moved to approve the minutes from the September PTO meeting and Shannon Knuth seconded.
3. Principal McAneny not present, Rosemary Foster read his prepared remarks – Garden continues to thrive thanks to those parents and teachers involved with that success. The January PTO meeting will include a discussion of the school's MCAS results from last spring. Results mailed in next few weeks to families of students who took tests last year. He wanted to thank the enrichment committee for their hard work.
4. Co-presidents update – Heather Breslau thank you for everyone who has started to volunteer at the school this year. In addition to ceiling mounts for projectors, PTO grants have also funded grade level subscriptions (ixl.com, scholastic news, and national geographic). Annual fund communications have been sent out via backpack mail. Annual fund helps to pay for a large chunk of enrichment budget. Next month's meeting will give a more detailed review of garden curriculum and also we will have Jennifer Suisse from School Committee here to give an update. Upcoming in February is the return of the Bishop Science Night, that is now in its planning stages. Rosemary Foster outlined a broad view of recent PTO budget activity.

Expenditures- a new drill purchased for the janitors and a new thermoscan thermometer was purchased for Nurse Donna. Funds were allocated for upcoming school-wide presentations. There is a town-wide PTO meeting that happens four times a year that co-presidents from each school attend to learn from each other.

5. Co-treasurers update – Renata Thomas – Annual fund off to a slow start compared to last year. Annual fund thus far \$1600 in 2 weeks and \$500 raised for walk-a-thon thus far (as of meeting date). Expenditures allocated for start of year school supplies. Minimal spending thus far. There was a hand out.
6. Fundraising coordinator update - Shannon Knuth two big events coming up. Pumpkin sale this Saturday is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade sponsored event. Walk-a-thon is next Friday, \$500 received but \$1000 has thus far been pledged. Walk-a-thon is a short, fun, successful event. Kids walk/run as many laps that can be completed in 30 minutes. Encourage everyone to use the online pledge system – higher response rate than paper. Last year approx. \$40-50 raised per walker. Smaller upcoming event is the Original Works fundraiser. Completed projects will be returned to school by November 24<sup>th</sup>. Amazon link from website nets good money for the school – remember to click through PTO website to get to Amazon.
7. Room parent coordinator update Katherine Reisz-Hanson offered reminders of PTO's Facebook and twitter pages. Pumpkin sale this weekend 10-2pm. All pumpkins from Wilson Farm. Other food items also for sale. Room-parents – most classrooms will have Halloween parties contribute to room funds.
8. Enrichment committee update – Maile Hedlund, Sarah Sontag, Skye Stewart and Brecky Peabody gave a Powerpoint presentation (that will be put onto the PTO website) outlining the year's enrichment activities by grade level. A key difference this year is that the budget for enrichment is \$16,000 less than last year because funds are being diverted toward Garden as it complements curriculum school wide. Enrichment works around a complex school day schedule to fit presentations into year. Kindergarten enrichment spread out, Belmont Habitat comes to the school twice, animals in winter and frogs in the spring, New England Aquarium brings tide pools, and Kemp Harris storyteller. First grade offerings include Eyes on Owls, Kemp Harris Africa storytelling, Belmont Habitat soils. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade MOS engineering bridges, Motoko Japanese storytelling, Jessie Brown with two days of poetry writing workshops. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will have visits from

Plimoth Plantation, Origamido (Math and art), a colonial reenactor/dancing, MOS motion forces and work. 4<sup>th</sup> grade MOS weather, MOS geology, WCVB meteorologist visit, Origamido, MOS Electromagnetism, 5<sup>th</sup> grade MOS Animal Adaptations, Origamido, MOS states of matter, Theatre Espresso “uprising on King Street: Boston Massacre”. How can parents learn more about what enrichment activities are planned? Enrichment events are listed on Bishop Calendar on website, also in the principal’s weekly newsletter updates, summaries by grade levels to room parents and on PTO website. Committee would love to get additional folks involved. This is Sarah Sontag’s last year at Bishop – so they need more volunteers. All in-school presentations are organized and funded by PTO enrichment committee.

9. Bishop Play – Michelle Mount – Big announcement the 2016 show will be Aladdin Kids. 1/3 of entire student population participates in the show. Costs are kept low with parent volunteer efforts. This is Michelle’s 3<sup>rd</sup> year here directing the show. K-1 will sing “A Whole New World”, grades 2/3 will be Genies. K-3 will be in two casts, two shows each. Grade 4/5 in both casts and will have four total shows. Info for play on PTO website under the enrichment link. Registration opens Wednesday Nov. 4 – Sunday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> do it early as space for involvement can be limited.

More info email Michelle Mount at [thebishopplay@gmail.com](mailto:thebishopplay@gmail.com)

There was an opportunity for public comment but none were made and the meeting was adjourned.