



**Bishop School PTO Meeting**  
**Date: April 13, 2016**  
**Location: Bishop School Library**

**Minutes**

1. Welcome - Those present at meeting opening - Rosemary Foster, Renata Thomas, Wendy Johncheck, Amanda Maltais, Heather Breslau, Courtney Zwirn, Shannon Knuth, Katherine Reisz-Hanson, Mark Davilla, Melina Salerno, Angelo Valle, Alanna Rosenberg, Donna Scharf, Emily Butler, Veronika Shuetz-Dirnboeck, Aly Lydon, Barbara Dumery, Mark McAneny, Jean Clark
  
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 2016 Meeting - Rosemary Foster made the motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting, Jen Badua second motion, and approved by all.
  
3. Principal's Update (Mark McAneny) – Thank you to PTO for support in community during last few weeks. School is getting ready for PARCC. The district has updated our computer infrastructure to accommodate online test. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will start testing upon return from April break.
  
4. Teacher's Update (Aly Lydon) – thanks for all the efforts of PTO during Staff appreciation week and in general support for staff.
  
5. Guest Speaker - Donna Scharf, Executive Director the Children's Room – Was here to provide guidance and support for a grieving community in response to the untimely passing of second grade student, Charlie Buck. Her words as follows: "Give children opportunity to share their own information around the loss. Grief begins when we understand what is happening and hear the news. Information is best shared in classrooms and in small groups to allow students to make sense. Being honest with kids about the death. Use real language, "Charlie died" and not "passed away" or "is gone". Some physical manifestations of grief – stomach aches, headaches. Children will also have worries about their own health and their parent's health. Reassure kids that this type of thing is very rare and it's not something you can "catch". Strategies – have a memory box that kids can add a thought if they have a memory, or a mural, there will be reminders that will trigger loss grief and will come unexpectedly. (From Rosemary Foster - PTO will work with Mr. McAneny and the Buck family on how to best honor Charlie.) The Children's Room is a resource for children who have experienced the loss of a parent or sibling.
  
6. Co-Presidents' Update (Rosemary Foster and Heather Breslau) – During pride week we had a successful fundraising penny drive for the Arlington Senior Center. Second grade raised the most money. Check to be delivered to Senior Center by end of month.

Electronics Recycling and Grounds Clean-Up – Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> grade event, CRT Recycling electronics to be recycled 9-2 charge for items and then percentage goes to bishop PTO. Same day clean up on school grounds and collection of items for used goods sale.



Bishop Bear Fair – Rosemary relayed Laura Fuller’s notes May 21<sup>st</sup> is date, raffle tickets (\$2 each) sold by students 4 tickets to new England revolution and 4 tix for red sox, and ipad mini. Bear fair is biggest event for parent volunteer involvement. Barbara Dumery is in charge of Fair related technology. More info to come out after April break. Jen Badua will be counting sales of raffle tickets. Large Scale class art will be available as part of auction at Fair.

7. Room Parent Update (Katherine Reisz-Hanson) Staff appreciation week has been underway. Thanks to all the parents for their involvement. Once again Kristin Thompson has been very involved providing assistance behind the scenes. Renata Thomas has made new teacher appreciation banner and signs – with her awesome graphic arts skills, Lindsay Sweeney coordinated the teacher appreciation postcards. There have been some great donations for the daily teacher raffle, those wonderful businesses include Fresh Pond Seafood, Arlington Centered, The Dunkin Donuts on Summer Street, Shanghai Village, Nick’s Place Pizza, Mahoney’s Garden Center, Paper Source, Williams and Sonoma, Magic Bites, The Magnificent Muffin in Medford. This year the chalk messages and flowers for teachers will happen during the first week in May.

8. Treasurer’s Report – (Renata Thomas) The second round of teacher checks went out recently and those combined with Aladdin receipts represent fair amount of expenses. Update on play income: Play has been self-funding since its inception and it not intended to be a major fundraiser, although it continues to exceed expectations. Play committee will be working with Mr. McAneny to determine how to use the extra funds – perhaps to fund fine arts related curriculum or related improvements at school (gym sound system, stage curtain, etc).

9. Garden Committee Update (Wendy Johnecheck and Amanda Maltais) – Update (Wendy) Garden is a three year pilot, as of June we are into 2<sup>nd</sup> year. So we have a year to figure out how to make this very successful venture a permanent part of Bishop. Some things committee would like to add include a faucet at site, more permanent fencing, a gathering space – place for classes to sit and take notes and a welcome sign with information about current crops. There has been some requests to keep the space open for kids after school with a parent. This spring there will a sign on a sandwich board saying people can come in with an adult during day and after school. This Spring all the classes will have an opportunity to get into garden and do plantings. Backpack mailer will be going out with information about what is in each grade level planting bed. Amanda is our new composting coordinator. This involves overseeing about thirty 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers who will bring out the buckets from cafeteria to dump into the compost bins. Fifth grade garden curriculum is about the composting process and the students will be creating designs that foster best composting. Kindergarteners will be planting pumpkins and sunflowers which then allows them to harvest their sunflowers and pumpkins as first graders and study that life cycle. First graders start Friday to learn classification systems of plant systems. Upcoming opportunities for parent volunteers. Open garden is Wednesdays from 9-11 and parents maintain the space and kids can come in during recess there will be a sign up genius for those slots. Charlotte Millan from DPW is working with the composting group.

10. Public Comment – There was no public comment.