



Bishop School PTO Meeting
Date & Time January, 2016, 7-9 pm
Location: Bishop School Library

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions. PTO members present include but are not limited to: Heather Breslau, Mark McAneny, Shannon Knuth, Barbara Dumery, Carrie Edwards, Melina Salerno, Jean Clark, Catherine Hoffman, Ms. Lydon (Teacher Rep), Emily Butler, Skye Stewart, Renata Thomas, Noam Levine, Katherine Reisz- Hanson, Christine Scull, Maile Hedlund, Mary McCabe-Golden, Naresh Kachoria
2. Approval of Minutes from the November 2015 PTO meeting, motion to approve by Katherine Reisz-Hanson and seconded by Heather Breslau, approved by all.
3. PTO Co-Presidents' Report (Rosemary Foster, Heather Breslau)
 - Rosemary Foster announced that due to legislative session State Rep. Sean Garballey would be unable to attend tonight.
 - Science Night on Wednesday February 24th: Event website is linked from PTO page. Similar to last year, there will be demonstration stations in gym and poster presentations. Goal is to get all 5th grade involved with demos, other grades to participate in hands-on demonstrations and options for poster presentations. Link for student posters to be live on January 14th. They need to sign up by February 3rd. This year's presentations to be compiled into an abstract.
 - Bishop Night out on January 29th – Mr. Ham to perform. This is a 2nd grade run event.
 - Big thank you to entire Bishop community for enormous support of Holiday Help charity drive.
4. Principal's Update (Mark McAneny) - 2015 MCAS results. Happy New Year.
 - Sad news this week with the passing of Christopher Landford, METCO Bus Supervisor and Bishop teaching aide. Crisis team was present to inform teachers and students of his passing.
 - On a lighter note, really impressed with progress of Bishop Play. Almost half of the school is participating in the play. Lot of energy and buzz about Aladdin.
 - District will be using PARCC this spring, an alternative to MCAS. Six of the schools will be doing it on paper and Bishop will be doing it with computers. Online test which is timed. Long composition will be eliminated for 4th grade. 4 math sections 60 minutes each. Test will be conducted on iPads with keyboards. School technical infrastructure will need to be upgraded to support test. Barbara Dumery asked if kids will be given practice tests. Katherine Reisz-Hanson asked whether typing will become part of the curriculum.

At this point, there are no specific plans for that within the curriculum but the group discussed ways to start preparing kids at home. Why did Bishop volunteer to pilot online test? Mark shared that it is a goal for the school to be advanced in technology. Having Bishop volunteer to be first will give better preparation for when all schools are required to take computer-based in two years.

5. Teacher's Update (Aly Lydon) – Props to enrichment committee this year, some really great presentations. Rob Surette's presentation was great. Really organized. On Tuesday evenings, Bishop Staff participate in Boston Social Dodgeball Team – great for community building.
6. Co-Treasurers' Report – Finance summary (Renata Thomas and Melina Salerno): Annual Fund at 90% of projected, Not Your Average Joes fundraiser in September did really well, Spiritwear sales are above expectations, Amazon link needs to be updated on website. PTO grant program funded the purchase of snow shoes for gym/Mr. Scopa for winter activities etc. Movie night a big success, not a fundraiser a community event. Bishop Play a lot of registration funds came in over last month. Melina Salerno mentioned the success of the book fair, \$800 profit, ordered \$1,000 worth of books at 40% discount so only cost \$600. Maxima gifts has a donation program that Bishop can benefit from.
7. Room Parent Coordinator's Report (Katherine Reisz-Hanson): Thanks to room parents for their involvement at PTO meetings, before the holidays staff were all given a small gift bag with a mug and cocoa. There are some extra mugs which will be sold as part of spirit sales. Beginning to plan teacher appreciation week, April 11th week.
8. Fundraising Coordinator's Report (Shannon Knuth): March 1st shop at Wilson's farm Day. Tuesdays in April will be Not Your Average Joes community fundraising nights.
9. Mark McAneny followed up with the MCAS Standardized testing results from last year. Next week, district will release our results online. On the DES website, there will be a link from district website. Tonight is a preview of the Report Card which will be on website. In general, as a high performing district, Bishop is rock solid in comparison with state. SGP only for 4th and 5th grades, as 3rd has no prior test results. District and school wanting to close gap between high achieving students and lowest performing. As a result of this, and our limited successes with ILL and students from disadvantaged groups, we are now a level 2 school because state measure for including disadvantaged students was expanded.

Meeting adjourned.

UPCOMING: PTO meeting on February 10 will include a presentation from Arlington Assistant Superintendent Dr. Laura Chesson on the new PARCC testing