

PTO meeting notes October 26th, 2011

Introductions:

PTO board in attendance plus about 10 members of the PTO

Justine Vivieros teacher liaison

Mark McAneny, Bishop principal.

President's Updates (Mary Ellen Aronow)

Town-wide PTO meeting last night....

- Updates from Thompson PTO president. Everything is going quite well with Thompson students at their host schools, several of the fundraising efforts at Bishop are similar.
- Discussions included sharing notes on fundraising efforts and discussion of joining forces to develop a town-wide 'mini-grant' opportunity.

Bishop mini-grant funds available for teachers to apply to (in the budget). Example, Owl Pellets. The town-wide PTOs are thinking about joining efforts for a bigger 'town wide grant'.

AEF grant, Bishop received two video cameras from an Arlington Education Fund grant that Alison Vaishnaw wrote. The cameras are being used to record events around the school and were used to make a small video of the latest enrichment event.

Fundraising:

Ann Garetts has volunteered to be the fundraising coordinator for this year. Jess Baxter will help her get up to speed.

Past Events

Pumpkin sale October 15th did well. 'Guess the weight' of the giant pumpkin was a fun addition (71 lbs) Two prizes were given (the pumpkin went to the best guess on the day of the event, and an ice cream gift certificate went to a Bishop student.

Walkathon was a successful and fun event – 112 students participated but pledge form and money returns have been slow.

Picture day, October 12. Retake day is December 2nd. Those were absent will have the pictures taken Dec 2nd.

Upcoming:

Original Works Art Fundraiser – notice has come out and is due back November 4th

Craft fair – place TBD, date TBD (December 6th or December 8th). Cost to rent a table is \$40-\$45 for a table for crafters. Cash bar. Silent auction.

SCRIP Program will roll out for the holidays. In this program, people can purchase gift cards to popular retailers and a portion (varies) goes back to Bishop PTO.

Bishop Dines Out – fun community events. Dates/location to be announced.

Shop Wilson Farms - will happen in the new year.

Ongoing programs:

Amazon

Stop and Shop

Recycle cell phone/electronics

Target cards

Budget Review (Catherine Hoffman)

Some people haven't sent in walkathon money - - good to send reminders.

Bishop spirit sales – new long sleeve shirts in stock

Next Spirit day Friday November 18th

Reviewed Revenues and Expenses

First round of teacher checks have been given to teachers

First Enrichment event of the year – Rob Surette was a big success.

Hotel for science camp for teachers was supported by the PTO as there was not enough room at the camp for the teachers to stay.

Catherine Hoffman met recently with Thompson PTO treasurers – the PTO is fundraising and will distribute money proportionately to schools where the Thompson students are being hosted. \$2400 will be disbursed to Bishop PTO this year.

Discussion of anticipated expenses from the PTO members in attendance.

Field trips – some younger grades have not had field trips. The plan is to support one bus field per grade per year. Teachers will be reminded that this is available.

Bishop Cooperative Theatre – for this year, staff and leadership is considering plans for the student body to attend a production.

Chili cook off – date TBD, likely in the New Year.

Report from teacher liaison (Justine Vivieros) Thank you from the teachers for enrichment, support, and checks.

PTO Directory: Ann Murray is coordinating and helping to put together. Almost 80% of names have been updated.

Principal's Report (Mark McAneny)

MCAS Results snapshot:

Mr McAneny's presentation of the MCAS data will be available through the link on the website.

Data has been reviewed by teachers/administration and grade-level collaborative learning teams are developing goals.

Reviewed the Grade 3-4-5 English Language Arts results. Discussed the variation in

curriculum across schools.

District now following cohorts of children – look at following cohorts through multiple years.

Specific areas being reviewed:

Group that ‘needs improvement’ in 4th grade.

Scores of 240 or below, the teacher team considers whether the students require ‘individualized success plan’.

Comment – It is important to consider how to meet needs of all children across the classroom, e.g. to support children who are in ‘needs improvement’ to the ‘proficient’ category AND to support children to move from ‘proficient’ to ‘advanced’.

Grade 3-4-5 Mathematics

Fewer students in ‘advanced’ group across grades...In 2011 over 25% in grade 3 and grade 4 in the ‘needs improvement category’.

Comment – major focus has been on English Language Arts (writing). There appears to be a need for focus in math. Staff have come up with goals in collaborative learning teams. The majority of grades included goals related to math.

Question - Are there things that the PTO/School/Parents can do individually or as a team to enhance or support these goals?

Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) – looks at expected progress towards 2014 goal of ‘all students in proficient or above’.

For 2011, Bishop did not meet Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals in aggregate and is reviewing specific measures to take. (note that ~ 50% of schools in MA did not meet AYP). PTO members agreed that there is the desire to work together to bring the scores up in future years. As Mr. McAneny expressed, this does not mean ‘teaching to the test’ but rather putting the focus on teaching a robust curriculum includes the things children need to learn to be successful in future years. The MCAS should be testing these things.

Enrichment:

The first event, Rob Surette was a huge success with the kids. His inspirational speaking and amazing speed-painting had the kids riveted!

Upcoming Enrichment Events:

November 16th, MoS Weather assembly G4

Jan 12 Anti Bullying K-G5

Mar 3 NEAQ Tide Pool K

Mar 14 Minerals workshop G4

Mar 16 Motoko G2

Mar 30 NEAQ Tide Pool G1

May 3 Bay Colony Educators G3

May 4 MoS Sates of Matter G5

5th Graders at Science Camp this week, and from all reports are having a great time. They come back Friday.

Next meeting, Wednesday, November 30th