

PTO MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Bishop School Library, 7 pm

WELCOME: Co-President Anne Murray welcomed everyone. PTO officers present were Co-Presidents Anne Murray and Karen Stark; Recording Secretary Eliza Burden; Corresponding Secretary Mary Trvalik, and Treasurer Mark Slomiak.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of March 2007 were reviewed and approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mark reported that the revenues for '06/'07 were mostly in place with the exception of the Bear Fair. He also commented on the ongoing playground fundraising which to date has raised nearly \$30,000.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Trvalik reported that she had received a check from Pizzeria Uno's in Porter Square from the February fundraiser. She has also been posting notices in the Arlington Advocate for the Bear Fair (5/19) and the Arlington Uncorked fundraiser (6/9). If anyone has anything to post, contact Mary at mary@trvalik.com.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Anne Murray spoke about the upcoming PTO election. She announced that her 2-year term was coming to a close, and that Karen Stark will be continuing with the second year of her 2-year term. Mark Slomiak and Eliza Burden will continue in their positions. Mary Trvalik will step down. The PTO will be looking for a new co-president and Corresponding secretary.

Karen Stark brought up the issue of the possibility of a playground monitor during field construction. She mentioned that the Thompson School hired a monitor to coordinate activities and to be a general overseer of playground activities during construction at that school. Karen inquired whether a monitor would be desirable/helpful at Bishop. Steve Carne responded by saying that recess is supposed to be a time for unstructured play for kids in contrast with the classroom schedules. He stressed the importance of this type of play in developing social skills. Ms Amato concurred that unstructured play is best and that kids might not even want organized activities. Steve Carne suggested that during construction, they try it the way it is and consider a monitor if it would be helpful. Anne Murray made a motion to allocate \$100 for the purchase of additional playground activities (hula hoops, jump ropes, skip-its, chalk, etc) for use while field is closed off. Motion was approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Steve Carne reported on the following topics.

1. Mary Nolan returned as Bus Monitor this week. He also apologized about last week's electrical problem on the bus that caused the terrible smell. He received calls and emails from many parents.
2. MCAS. The first phase of MCAS went well; now they are preparing for the May phase of the MCAS.
3. School Budget. Still in flux. Likely that there will be only two second grade classrooms with approx 23 children each. He is also watching the kindergarten numbers; right now there are 72 children registered.
4. Placement process. He commented on the forms that were asked to be completed by parents by April Vacation that are used to assist in classroom placement.
5. Advisory Council. Kiera Campbell is completing her 2nd year so one place on Board will be available.
6. New Bishop School website. Steve mentioned he was grateful for the website design work being undertaken by parent volunteer, Alyssa Clossey.
7. Steve also commented on last week's death of Arlington High Schooler Paul Leone, a former Bishop student. He attended a celebration of his life at AHS. He said it was a wonderful, personal service and that he was particularly proud of the many former Bishop students that spoke at this service. Anne Murray remarked that if a fund is set up in Paul's memory, the PTO would like to make a contribution.
8. The Spring Concert and Art Show this year will be split into two events as requested by parents. The concert will be held on May 9 and the Art Show on June 7.

Steve Carne also reviewed the calendar:

5/9 – Spring Concert
6/7 – Art Show
6/14 – Field Day (K-2); walkathon? (3-5)
6/18 – Field Day (3-5; walkathon? (3-5)
6/19 – Last Day of School

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Amato was present to represent the teachers. She commented that the Origamido presentation was great as was the Bay Colony Educators program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art Night. Robin Cassell reported that the Art Night will take place June 7. They want it to be more than an exhibition of classroom art. They are considering have hands-on stations, artist demonstrations, and even an art café. **Volunteers are needed.** Also need help with getting art hung. Pierce School made a paper mache pig that was painted during their art night. Bishop could do something similar and then auction it at the Arlington Uncorked Event on June 9.

Enrichment. Alison Vaishnaw reviewed the programs that have recently taken place at the school: Wampanoags (2nd gr.); Habitat's Frogs (K & 2 gr.); Bay Colony (3rd & 5th) and Origamido (3rd-5th). Bay Colony Educators might have one more year but they are retiring after 17 years of visits to Bishop School. Upcoming events include Mus of Science (5th gr); Solar Winds – all gr. (June 6); Domino Physics June 5; Author visit 3rd gr. June 13; Simple Machines (1st and 2nd, 3rd gr. Wkshps June 15). Budget is on-target.

Book Fair. Mar 12-16. Amy Kremer reported that \$450 was made from the Fair. She inquired about an open house during art or music events. She voiced interest in the possibility of having an illustrator doing a demonstration in the library during Art Night.

Skating. Anne Murray reported that \$696 of tickets were prepaid and \$214 at the door. This approach of pre-selling tickets proved to be helpful. This event made a profit of \$797; \$80 over last year.

TV Free Week. No coordinator this year.

Teacher Appreciation Week. May 14. It will take place one week later than originally proposed.

Mother Day Flower Sale. Mary Trvalik is coordinating. Nothing has been announced to date.

Big Apple Circus. Anne Murray reported that a \$389 profit was made. This is slightly less than last year since the prices were kept lower to make it more affordable.

Bear Fair. Jeanne Kelly is coordinating. Banners have been made (only \$36 at halfpricebanners.com). These are to be hung near rink. There will be half the number of field events than last year. Activities will include moon bounce, radar pitch, gladiator, cake walk and used goods. Raffle tickets go home with kids this week. Room parents will be contacted next week to coordinate volunteers to run the games. Jeanne is away next week; Diane Crowley will be the contact. Amy Kremer wants to know what to buy for prizes; Jeanne suggested candy because it is so inexpensive. Amy K will contact parents re: contributions. Jeanne remarked that people at the rink have been very helpful in preparing for the Fair at the rink location. Date and location has been changed. Date of Fair will be Sat., May 19 with a raindate of May 20. New Location is next to the Veterans Skating Rink.

Playground Committee. Justine Bloch reported that it has been a busy month. Jen Goodwin announced that a total of \$34,929 has been raised to date. Much of this has come from 58 participating families and 3 grandparents. Pennies for Playground effort raised \$3807. Over 200 businesses are being contacted; follow up phone calls will be made. BPIC has also written a friends and neighbors letter that people can distribute to solicit additional contributions.

Justine Bloch presented details on the Arlington Uncorked Event June 9, 6:30-11. \$25/ticket or \$35 at door. Food, music, wine tasting/auction. Over 100 auction items have been acquired; catalog going to print in next 2 weeks. Wine will also be available for purchase at the event. Bishop will be profit-sharing with the wine distributor. Manpower is needed on 6/8 and 6/9 for set-up and break-down.

There will be a meeting at Bishop for the community from 6:30 to 7:30 to hear about the plans. Huge thanks to Ken Lubar for all of his help with the website.

Next Meeting

Next PTO meeting will be held on Weds., June 6, 7 p.m.

