

BISHOP PTO NOTES FOR June 15th

Introduction and Welcome

- Co Presidents: Laura Fairbanks and Mary Ellen Aronow
- Treasurer: Catherine Hoffman
- Recording Secretary: Alixe Bonardi
- Corresponding Secretary: Sarah Sontag
- Fundraising Coordinator: Jess Baxter

Attendees introduced themselves

President's Report - Mary Ellen Aronow

Updates since the last meeting: The Bear Fair was a success

School Events and Fundraising Reports:

Laura Fairbanks

Teacher appreciation was last week. Two lunches were held for the teachers, hosted by K-1 and 2-3.

End of year teacher tea is going to be next week (Tuesday 6/22) to celebrate teachers and especially the teachers and staff who will be leaving the school.

Enrichment report

Alison Vaishnaw

We have had lots of events since the last meeting (May).

- Workshops for K and 1 on Frogs and Soil,
- Bay Colony Educators presentations for grades 3 and 5 and the
- 5th grade had the MoS States of Matter,
- 2nd grade had arts appreciation workshops by class.
- Full school modern dance residency
- Last Friday had Chris Poulous (champion BMX rider and motivational speaker) whole school assembly in the playground. Spoke about many kinds of values and virtues and was well received by the students.

Fundraising

Jess Baxter - We received over \$500 from Stop and Shop A+ Rewards program

Ken Lubar - Annual fund report: 'click to donate' with Paypal has been successful.

Plan for an earlier start for next year's annual fund campaign. Will send out a reminder to start at the Bishop Site when starting purchases through Amazon.

Treasurers Report - Catherine Hoffman reviewed treasurer's report for school year 2010/2011 and discussed the following highlights:

Bear Fair proceeds were close to \$14,500.

Walkathon was a great earner with low effort. This is a great event to support in

coming years. There was no wrapping paper sale this year with no complaints from the Bishop community.

Discussed the importance of advertising the ongoing fundraisers (e.g. 'percent of purchase' such as Menotomy Beer and Wine, Amazon, etc.) - - maybe even get this into principals newsletter monthly with links to those fundraisers that are on-line

Presentation of 2011/2012 budget - Catherine Hoffman and Mary Ellen Aronow
Highlights:

Propose moving some fundraisers to 'every other year' e.g. electronics recycling. Discussed focusing on the high earning fundraisers, more emphasis on the annual fund. As much as possible, the emphasis is on the community events that also are good fund raisers.

Considered moving chocolate sale off the list.

A PTO member suggested putting out an annual report as a way to get information to the

Much easier to raise money for capital expenses.

Suggested adult PTO (parent only) event – move silent auction from Bear Fair to adult event.

Off-site student supplement: Line included in the budget to cover 5th Grade science camp scholarships and scholarships for other field trips.

Vote on 2011/2012 budget - Mary Ellen Aronow

Heather Hewitt voted to approve.

Laura Fairbanks seconded.

Budget approved.

Reviewed **Bishop Events and Fundraising Calendar**. This is a draft PTO document that lists all PTO events, to help with planning and making sure events are well spaced during the year.

Principals Report:

- There are 5 teachers / staff members who will be leaving Bishop at the end of this school year. Teacher positions will be filled through internal transfers or posted positions (within the building and moving within district).
- Class lists for next year will be sent out in July.
- Openings exist on Bishop Advisory Council, so Mr Silvestri and Mr McAneny will be sending out a notice

- Open house / curriculum afternoons: Discussion of the challenge of afternoon events having low attendance. Bishop used to have the curriculum event in the evening. The teachers find it easier to have many parents attend. Mr McAneny will be reviewing options with teachers for curriculum presentation / open house plans.

- Grade 5 update: Parent information night @ Bishop on Wed. June 22 @ 7:00.

- There will be 5 teachers with class sizes of 25 students.
- A transition team of parents teachers and administrators will be formed.
- In Arlington, there are a total of 7 grades in schools where there are 26 to 29 students.
- Bishop will need to use the music room for grade 5 classroom. The students will be mixed throughout the grade.
- Many options being considered for configuring instruction, who music and art will be structured.

Joint presentation by Principal Steve Silvestri and Incoming Principal Mark McAneny on technology at Bishop

(Presentation using smart board for demonstration)

Principal Mark McAneny and the Bishop Entry Plan

Mr. McAneny presented his initial thoughts on his Entry Plan.

Next year will be an opportunity to bring Bishop and Thompson community together as 5th grades are combined.

Aiming to build trust as foundation – plan on integrating core values throughout instruction.

Background: Undergrad in Evergreen State in Olympia, Masters @ Leslie University.

Leadership experience. experiences from Marine Corps and a range of experiences that lead to current role at Bishop

Taught 3rd, 4th, 5th grades

Highlights of Mr. McAneny’s Entry Plan

Minimize the disruption resulting from change in Bishop admin leadership

Develop a shared vision of what Bishop does well and what we can improve.

Create an action plan to sustain and build on Bishop’s strengths.

Implement action plan.

Mr McAneny will be busy through the summer learning about Arlington Public Schools, Bishop School, and the community.

Bishop School Culture Survey

Mr McAneny presented questions that he plans to include in ‘Bishop Entry Interview Questions’.

Planning to get involved through outreach to families and stakeholders in the Bishop Community.

Smartboard Demonstration

Both Mr. Silvestri and Mr. McAneny used the smartboard to present as demonstration.

Proposed having one smartboard set up in the library and one in the computer room.

Comments:

Important to get technology into people's hand AND help them learn to use it. There needs to be consideration of resources, funding, and ongoing training.
Need to think about how the teacher wants to use the technology.
There is a significant amount of research / professional development time that teachers need to do to develop notebooks for use on smartboards.

There are many opportunities to enhance technology @ Bishop and Mr. McAneny is committed to being mindful about how to focus efforts.

Mr. McAneny is considering developing a grant-writing committee to pursue grants such as STEM grants or funding from industry.

Next step: come up with concrete goal for technology. This will help anchor any targeted fundraising effort.

Efforts to build technology capacity should be beyond Bishop but should be town-wide. Suggest townwide PTO may want to build on this.

Call for New Business from the floor - Mary Ellen Aronow

Election of New Officers for 2011/2012 - Laura Fairbanks and Mary Ellen Aronow
Current officers are running unopposed
Usha Iyer will be new corresponding secretary
Breck Peabody will serve as PTO co-president.

Meeting was adjourned.