

## **PTO MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Bishop School Library, 7 pm

**WELCOME:** Co-President Karen Stark welcomed everyone and mentioned that due to the Red Sox game at 8:30, efforts would be made to keep the meeting short. Other PTO officers present were Co-President Gwyneth Morris, Corresponding Secretary Alixe Bonardi, Treasurer Mark Slomiak and Recording Secretary Eliza Burden.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark Slomiak reported that all three events that had occurred - the ice cream social, Town Day and the Art Fundraiser - had generated more revenue than had been expected. The library also reported book donations on Open House night totaling \$806.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Alixe Bonardi reported that the Thrift Shop will be taking a short break in early November and will reopen on Weds. Nov 7. Alixe also reported on the Annual Fund Drive that will be launched at the end of this week. The PTO is aiming for 100% participation and are hoping to keep the drive short and sweet, sending the form home in backpacks and following up with emails at the end of the next two weeks encouraging parents to participate

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Playground Committee.** Justine Bloch provided an update on playground progress, explaining that excavation is underway and the site is nearly ready for the equipment. Equipment is due to be delivered on Monday Oct 29. If this goes as planned, 10 people will be at Bishop on Tuesday for pre-assembly work. If that happens, the community build will happen on the weekend of Nov 10-11. Jennifer Goodwin will be contacting parents to recruit them for this weekend event as soon as the equipment has been delivered. Justine gave huge thanks to Laura Fairbanks for coordinating the donated excavation - a donation to the school worth \$10-12,000. Justine reported that Alan Belanger of "Dig and Pour" has been fabulous to work with and enormously generous. Justine also gave very special thanks to Greg Blass who has also been extremely generous with his time and expertise.

Kiera Campbell suggested that the PTO consider giving a gift to Alan Belanger. Justine said that there might be money in the BPIC budget to do this.

Steve Carme took the opportunity to thank the lunchroom volunteers for being flexible in guiding the kids during lunch recess. Steve and Geraldine Holden stated that the kids have been enthralled with the excavation work, often lining up along the fence to watch.

Justine reported that the next meeting should occur on Dec 11, assuming all goes according to schedule.

**Enrichment.** Alison Vaishnaw previewed some of the upcoming events. Poetry-In-Motion program is scheduled for October 25. This is a program tied into poetry work occurring in some classrooms. Other programs mentioned include a New England Aquarium program on Tidepools for K/1 grades and an MIT program on "Simple Machines" for the third grade. Tying into the school's "Regard for Others" mission, there will be a Nikki Hu dance program for the school and a theatre workshop on anti-bullying for third graders. She mentioned the upcoming Worldfest and Sciencefest. Also, she explained that the third grade (who will not be included in the Bishop Cooperative Theater due to high numbers of participating 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) will be putting on a play called "13 Colonies" that will be performed to the school in June.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Steve Carme reported on the following topics:

1. Open House was a big success and that he had enjoyed being a part of many scavenger hunts.

2. Mrs Hartley is coordinating the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp that will be Nov 6-9. She is coordinating the Science Camp for all seven Arlington schools. Steve hopes to visit the Bishop students at the camp on Thurs Nov 8.

3. Advisory Council. The Council distributed the 2 new booklets: the School Improvement Plan and the Math Facts Booklet. Steve encouraged parents to please contact him if it is found that a recommended website is not working. The Advisory Council has had one meeting. Parents are working on collecting photos depicting the core values of the school.

#### Upcoming Dates

11/1 No School - Teacher Professional Day

11/21 Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving

11/30 Report Cards

12/4-6 Conferences 11:15 dismissal

12/11 Early Release 1:00

12/21 – Jan. 2 Holiday Break

Alixé Bonardi inquired about short-term child care during conferences. Steve responded that the school could not provide care because all teachers are involved in the conferences, however, he would be more than happy to work with a parent that wanted to coordinate this effort. Alixé suggested that it could possibly be a money making opportunity for the PTO. Steve said that the gym could be available as a location for this.

#### **STAFF REPRESENTATIVE**

Geraldine Holden thanked the PTO for the teacher checks, remarking that the money was very helpful in equipping the rooms with supplies.

#### **New Business.**

Karen Stark read a letter from Amy Meblin concerned about the trash in the bushes near the back stairs. Steve Carme will ask the custodians to conduct a daily clean-up of this area and look into putting a trash barrel near this stair for the kids' snack trash. Justine Bloch of BPIC reported that there will be cutting back of this shrubbery as part of the post-construction efforts around the playground.

Alison Vaishnaw brought up the issue of printing of the Pennant. It is her concern that if the school newsletter is only distributed on-line that the children may not see a hard copy. Karen Stark explained that this was a financial decision to stop printing hard copies. She said she would inquire about another donor for the printing. Also it was decided that hard copies would be provided to all teachers so that the Pennant would be posted in the classrooms and to the library so children could read it there. It was also decided that parents should be reminded to print, if possible, a hard copy for their children to read.

#### **Next Meeting**

Next PTO meeting is November 28 at 7 p.m