

Bowman PTA Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018

Bowman Library

7:00PM Sign-In, Welcome, and Introductions

In attendance: Karin Ornstein, Gary Van Deurse, Rebecca Fagan Gorospe, Allison Stevens, Courtney Lauriat, Martha Rogers, Joshua Curhan, Lisa Premerlani, Valerie Machinist, Cindy Arens

7:10PM PTA Business

• Treasurers Report

- Fifth grade donations-in great shape
- ACT donations-budget has been adjusted to account for library and arts memberships and is now solvent. ACT has booked some events for the remainder of this year.
- \$2500 Staples grant hit our account recently. Huge thank you to Mark Cautela for nominating us
- Membership dues have brought in 121% of what we budgeted
- We recently wired money to Kenya. Dr. Anton wants to make it more public that we are supporting the school in Kenya and we are considering ways to do more programming around Sagam, possibly at Passport to the World.
- No teachers have applied yet this year for a mini-grant. PTA presidents will email Dr. Anton to remind staff that these are available.
- Checks to teachers for classroom supplies will be dispersed this week. In the future, we should let teachers know in the fall that PTA funds will be coming later in the year in case teachers want to spend money in the fall. Suggestion to send out a communication to all teachers in the fall about how they can join the PTA as well as to inform them about mini-grants and reimbursement checks which will be issued later in the year
- Check has been cut recently for a Disco Bingo DJ

• Kindergarten Orientation

- District-wide orientation is March 15. Gary Van Deurse will look into having a Bowman PTA table with materials available with information about our PTA and how to join.
- We would also like to have a presence at the Bowman Kindergarten screening in May and will check with Dr. Anton.

• Membership

- Some parents have acknowledged they are happy to be able to participate in the library and arts PTA memberships- there are apparently some who would still like to purchase one. Limited swag is available and we will do a final push to let

people know it's not too late to purchase membership if they would like to. Swag will be available while supplies last.

- Discussion about trying to plan membership tiers this spring for next year rather than waiting until the summer. This will allow us to advertise memberships to incoming Kindergarten parents as well as make it easier for PTA board members over the summer. We would like to consider including a flyer in the envelope with class assignments. Membership sales for the following year will not open until class assignments are announced over the summer.
- In the future, we would like to aim to have directories come out earlier in the fall.
- **Website**
 - Discussion about how we communicate with the Bowman community through newsletters. PTAs at all the schools struggle with having their information read by the community. One suggestion that has been successful at other schools is to have the newsletter be online with only headlines that link to additional information. Regardless of the feedback from the PPC, our group seems to prefer having all information printed. Rebecca will work with Suman to figure out logistics.
 - The faculty/staff is still not getting an announcement when a new Broadside is published. Presidents will talk to the office again about adding faculty/staff to the email when there is a new Broadside.
- **Book Fair** – Will discuss at next meeting whether we would like Scholastic Dollars in the future.
- **Board Recruitment**-Will discuss at next meeting
- **Guidelines for parents and children at school events**
 - We need to be more mindful about encouraging parents and kids to follow school rules at PTA-sponsored school events.
 - We would like to send communication to parents that school rules are in effect during PTA events and to remind parents that they are responsible for supervising their own children. Cindy Arens will work on appropriate wording to try to reinforce good behavior.
- **ACT**
 - We would like to create a form available to staff and PTA to solicit ideas for ACT programming. It would be much easier to look into suggestions if standard information is provided. Gary Van Deurse will send fields to Rebecca Fagan Gorospe to post online.
- **BOKS**
 - A microphone was purchased in the past through a grant for BOKS and with personal money by a BOKS leader. Math night will use the BOKS microphone this week.
 - BOKS will hopefully continue this spring.

8:00PM PPC Updates

- **MCAS**
 - There was discussion at a recent PPC meeting about how MCAS is approached in the elementary schools. Dr. Cjajkowski is advocating for a revamping of how

students are prepared for MCAS in the elementary schools in order to decrease stress around the test. She suggests that we continue to prepare kids for the test but eliminate elements that make it stressful such as encouraging kids to eat a big breakfast, not letting students play on the playground, and signage about being quiet because of testing. Everyone at the PPC meeting feels like Lexington should be a leader and that we can effect change and hopefully other districts will follow. This is being approached as a district.

8:15PM Any other Business

- Gary Van Deurse and Rebecca Fagan Gorospe will look into purchasing a thank-you gift for Jean Bitton from the PTA on the occasion of her retirement.

8:30PM Adjourn

Next PTA meeting: 2/6

Upcoming Events:

- 1/11 Family Math Night, Grades 4&5
- 1/19 Movie Night
- 2/8 Science Fair
- 2/13 Family Math Night, Grades 2&3
- 3/1 Spaghetti Dinner
- 3/14 Wilson Farm Shopping Day
- 3/15 Kindergarten Orientation
- 3/21 Family Math Night, Grades K&1
- 3/23 Variety Show
- 4/6 Disco Bingo
- 5/15 Book Swap