**PTA Meeting Minutes**

**January 10, 2012**

25 attendees at meeting

**Presidents: Jennifer Velis and Flo Donaghy**

Thank you everyone for coming. We have a large agenda so lets dive right in with our treasurer.

**Treasurer Update: Betsy Wlkinson**

* Thank you everyone. Here’s an update on what the PTA has been able to do so far:
* We’ve supplied classroom rugs for all kindergarten –third grade classes.
* Currently taking inventory of grades 4-5 to hopefully purchase rugs for those classrooms as well.
* Sponsored an LEF trivia team for the Trivia Bee back in November.
* We’ve funded the Museum of Science traveling shows
* Purchased Intervention materials for Len Swanton to use in his programs.
* Phonics tools? (Emailed Betsy for more info on this….couldn’t type fast enough to keep up with her!!)

**ACT: Colleen Smith/Carol Cayer-Meade**

* We had one all school performance in the Fall in October, *Baryna Russian Dance Troupe*. [http://www.barynya.com](http://www.barynya.com/) Program of Russian, Ukrainian, Russian Gypsy, Cossack, Siberian and Russian Jewish traditional dance and music.
* The Spring all school performance will be *Inca Son*. This performance is the recipient of the Boston Music Award for "Best World Artist;"
* 2007 Independent Music Award for "Best World Song;" 2007 "Champions of Art Education," Mass. Alliance for Art Education; 2008 Los Angeles Music Award for "Best World Artist;" 2009 Gold Star Award, Mass Cultural Council, for Excellence in School Residencies; and the 2010 "Best in Performance Award," Small Business Commerce Association, Cambridge, Massachusetts
* Mother Goose will be visiting the Kindergarten classes in March
* In the coming months, the First graders will have Tony Toledo the story teller coming
* 2nd Grade will have the Teepee Man from Native American Perspectives in April
* The Bay Colony Players performed for the 3rd Grade before holidays
* 4th Graders just had an Egypt performance

**Fund Raising: Moira Logan**

* The **Fall Fair** brought in $5,700!!
* **Spirit Wear** has made $1800 so far. Very good!
* The **Scrips** fundraiser did ok but not didn’t make as much money as we had hoped for. We had strong participation by Bowman families but the return on our purchases wasn’t very good. We won’t be doing it again. We’re considering bringing back a wrapping paper company as a fund raiser next year. Haven’t done that in a few years and Bowman gets a good percentage of the money made.
* **Book Fair: Leslie Forg**

We made just under $3,000 which is about $1,000 less than last year but the book fair ran for only 5 days with only being open a half-day of on Monday and on Friday. We also had early release on Thursday.  In addition, we did not have the usual parent traffic we normally have with conferences and with an evening event.  We stayed open late one night to accommodate extended day families and we were definitely busy!

A little over 260 books were donated to classrooms, a record amount!  We're considering using Book Ends again but we want to talk to them about increasing their titles especially for the older grades.  That was really the only complaint.  All else about working with them was very good.

**Families in Need: Laurie Buchta and Jennifer Lawrence**

* Organization we work with is called Community Team Work out of Lowell.
* They help single woman, single moms with children in shelters. They send us a list of the families and the items they are in need of or hoping for.
* Laurie read a letter from a woman who was overwhelmed by our kindness.
* An idea was brought up for the future….Possibly creating a list of all items on the wishlist so that Bowman families could sign up to purchase individual gifts rather than one Bowman family provide all the gifts for one family. Another idea is to have more than one Bowman family split the families on the list. This would make it more manageable on our side.

**Flo Donaghy and Jennifer Velis**

* We will have a new mom doing the Broadside in the Fall…. Kate Ekram She’s very excited.
* In addition, there will be other PTA positions to fill for next year. We’re hoping to get new parents involved. Please let us know if you know of anyone or have any suggestions.

**Luminary Night:** **Collen Smith**

* Was in December. Was first started by LexFun but it was moved to the schools this year. Beautiful event. Bowman sold the most kits. We raised $800 for Bowman. $1,600 sold and half went to PTA.

**Upcoming Events**

**Class Baskets: Moira Logan**

* All classes have submitted their themes. We will also have baskets donated by ACT, the Chess Club and the Movie Night Committee. Baskets will be on display starting on Monday January 23rd  through Friday January 27th in the Bowman lobby. Baskets are due Friday January 20th between 2-3:30. Tickets are $1.00 each.

**Disco Bingo: Colleen Smith and Kerry Hart**

* January 27th, celebrity callers, baskets will be announced at different intervals, Laurie Buchta will help with concessions. Kids need to bring pennies to use as markers.

**Math Night: Laura Swain**

* Feb 1st 4th and 5th grade Math Night – combined night. Use Math to help solve problems…Looking for someone to take it over next year.

**Science Fair : Laura Swain**

* March 14th

**5th Grade Activies** : Flo Donaghy

* Chairs are Marcy Lee and JoAnne Bodemer

**Spaghetti Dinner**

5th grade run event. 5th graders work as servers. ***Streganonna*** is the theme. The actual Streganonna will be at the event. Signed books will be raffled. Mike and Adrienne Ortil are running the event.

**Movie Night: Amy Selinger, Chris McEwen and Lisa Obrien**

* Rescheduled for March 2nd at 6:30
* Movie is Rio. It will be shown in two theaters - Gym and Cafeteria. There will also be a parent hospitality area. Looking for volunteers to help bag popcorn. Chris will be having a popcorn bagging party at her house the night before.

**Wilson Farms Shopping Day**

* March 20th– Robin Abrams in charge.

**Bowman in Bloom**: **Colleen Smith**

* April 28th – will be at Season’s Four again.
* Invitations will go out
* Appetizers and desserts
* Slated to raise $12,000-14,000. We’ll have a live auction and silent auction and hope to also incorporate an art element created by the kids.
* Also would be great to have alumni come. Hoping to reach out to them.

**Flo and Jennifer want to thank everyone for all of their hard work!**

**Betsy** also thanks everyone for being so good about getting in touch with her when they need a check, and reminding her or giving her a heads up.

**YES Science Club: Beth Briggs**

* 8-10 week program
* will meet once a week for an hour
* Chair-people order kits for participants .
* High School volunteers come and help build kits with kids.
* We need someone to run the program. If we don’t find two parents, we won’t have it.

**Bowman Magazine**: **Flo Donaghy**

* Ms. Selhub would like to start it.
* 4th graders will be in charge of organizing the magazine but the content will be created by all students.
* Will need a parent to help coordinate next year.
* Maybe publish it twice a year.

**YES for our Schools Campaign: Jennnifer Velis and Flo Donaghy**

* We need people to help phone bank, hold signs, etc…
* We still have a lot of work to do. A lot of people don’t understand or don’t know what we’re voting on. Many people don’t want to vote yes on anything that will raise taxes.
* Also absentee ballots are available. Can go and pick them up at town hall, fill it out and cast your vote.
* Kathleen needs 60 people to make calls the night before (January 23rd) to call 50 people to say “remember to vote”
* Hold signs at “Pick up” at all 6 elementary schools and different locations around town.
* If anyone lost their sign, email Kathleen, Flo, Betsy, go on website…

**Dr. Anton**

* In anticipation that project will be going forward, bidding contractors will be coming in to look at project and provide bid.
* After April vacation, work will start. After school, evening and weekends. K-2 wing should be done by summer 2012.
* Extended day will most likely be bused to central office to use the gym there.
* Some things may have to happen at other schools during construction. Example….evening concerts.
* At this point, we’re not sure what after school activities will be able to happen but we’re hoping to continue to offer as much as we can.
* Construction is scheduled to happen for about a year and a month.

**Dr. Anton Continued…**

* Should be completely finished by December break going into 2014.
* There will not be any construction during the school day. Other schools that aren’t affected have offered to help, offer space to us if we need it for after school clubs, etc…
* Bowman and Bridge will be done by one contractor.
* Estabrooke will have a separate contractor.
* Two questions on ballot….Bowman and Bridge are one question and Estabrooke is another.
* Thursday night, League of Woman Voters will be holding a session at Clarke 7:00. Very interesting evening.

**Questions/Comments**

Comment on how great the **Bowman PTA website** is. So easy to use.

Question about **Chess Club**

Jennifer Velis

* Club was pieced together this year to just get it going. Next year there will be an online sign-up and more organization.
* Chess Master comes each week
* 50 plus kids participating and there’s a waitlist.
* Ask each family for a $20 donation
* There will be a Bowman Tournament and a Town-wide tournament in the Spring.
* Original plan was to have 30 kids participate but it’s totally taken off and now there are 54 kids.
* Need to figure out how to make it manageable. Maybe split up k-2 in the spring and 3-5 in the fall…. Need to come up with ways to manage the numbers.

Questions/Concerns about **dust issues**

* Pretty stringent air quality testing will happen. Permanent building committee will be doing this rather than relying on the contractor. They’ve already taken baseline measurements to see where we are now.
* Testing has been done for lead and asbestos and as far as they know there are neither in this school.

Reminder from Betsy Wilkinson

* There is always financial aid available for any fee based or donation based clubs