

# Bowman PTA Board Meeting Minutes

## November 15, 2017

### Bowman Classroom 3

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

In attendance: Tanya Kouprach-Rolandi, Sharon Huang, Cindy Arens, Rebecca Fagan Gorospe, Gary Van Deurse, Karin Ornstein, Courtney Lauriat, Lisa Premerlani, Valerie Machinist, Lauren Avery

Teacher Representatives: Martha Rogers, Joshua Curhan

#### 7:10PM PTA Business

- **Treasurer Update**
  - **Deposits**
    - 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities has raised over \$2000 and is positioned well for the year.
    - Numbers are still being finalized for the bookfair but we expect to make approximately twice as much as last year.
    - Membership has raised over \$18,000 in dues to date (budgeted \$14,000). However, this only represents 58% participation of families. Would still like to increase participation rate. Tiered pricing has worked very well.
    - Adventure run made approximately \$1500.
  - **Expenses**
    - Recent large expenses were for Adventure Run and PTA membership swag costs.
  - **ACT**
    - ACT may have higher than normal expenses this year and has raised less than expected through membership. A discussion occurred around where additional money will come from.
- **Membership Update**
  - Directories are being worked on and will be out soon.
  - Co-presidents have discussed membership participation rate concerns with Dr. Anton and want to keep improving on PTA membership participation.
- **Board Recruitment/Volunteer Participation**
  - More volunteers are needed to organize and run events.
  - Would like to increase participation on PTA board. Some roles for this year (Fundraising and Recruitment) are still unfilled. Personal asks help.
  - Brainstorm for next year to increase volunteer participation: google survey with volunteer options, fair where people see/sign up for events (similar to first day coffee), spotlight Open Positions in Broadside, task Executive Board with tapping other people, create a Volunteer Recruitment board position.
- **Communications Update**
  - Teachers are not getting an email when Broadside is published. Co-Presidents will talk to Jean Bitton about including them when it is circulated.

- Discussion about whether trial of electronic-only circulation of Broadside is effective. There are cost, approval/production time, and environmental concerns for printed issue.
- Suggestions: print less frequently, have a one page bulleted sheet with highlights, publish online as website page instead of PDF.
- Co-Presidents will make sure a link to the Broadside is included in MSA weekly announcements.
- Facebook page and Twitter accounts are set up but not reaching a lot of people.
- **Book Fair**
  - Fall Bookfair was a huge success. Those in attendance agreed that this year's book selection and visual set-up was great, online presence was successful, and timing during conferences was beneficial both from a financial and convenience perspective.
  - Conversation about receiving Scholastic Dollars vs. Regular dollars moved to January meeting. Currently we can receive approximately \$4000 or double the amount in Scholastic dollars (or a portion of each). Scholastic dollars have some limitations, but might be beneficial especially for library purchases by Ms. Loof. Some concerns were presented about giving Scholastic Dollars to teachers because of the lack of flexibility in purchasing options.
- **Yes Campaign**
  - Bowman PTA has endorsed and donated to the campaign.
  - Campaign continues to need volunteers to help with phone bank.
  - Bowman is hosting an info session for the YES campaign on 11/30 at 7:00pm in the Bowman Library. No fundraising will be occurring. The YES campaign is providing marketing materials and speakers. Valerie Machinist will post details about the event to local listserves and groups and room parents will also disseminate information.
- **Stop and Shop A+ Rewards**
  - Sharon Huang checked the balance last week and we had over \$100 so rewards system is up and running. She is trying to get the word out as much as possible and hoping more people will sign up. You can register your S&S card even if you use Peapod.
  - Suggestion to announce Fundraising efforts as a "New Year's Resolution" in the Broadside to include Stop and Shop and Amazon Smile.
- **Composting**
  - Bowman is currently the only elementary school not composting. Other elementary schools have been composting at lunch for several years. It has been very successful and one school has reduced trash by 90%.
  - Cindy Arens is working with Dr. Anton and Ms. Glick to bring composting to Bowman. Dr. Anton has concerns about the size of school, time to move students through lunchroom, and not increasing the burden on teachers, but is open to discussing how it could work.
  - Dr. Anton would like to use composting initiative as a learning opportunity and start small with a few classes. She also wants to keep compost local rather than have it picked up and taken to a far-off facility. One possibility is the LPS faculty garden near Harrington.
  - Cindy Arens is hoping to start a pilot program at Bowman. She is going to a district meeting with LPS, Whitson's, and the Lex Parent "Green Team" representing all schools. She will also start putting "green tips" in the Broadside.
- **Artsonia**

- Conversation moved to a later meeting when Mrs. Goldfarb can attend. One member in participation is unhappy about the amount of marketing emails she is receiving from Artsonia and would like this included on a future agenda.

#### **8:15PM Other PTA Business**

- **Microphone**-PTA is seeking information about whether there is a PTA microphone, where it is, if it works, and whether the PTA should purchase a new one. BOKS has a microphone which was purchased with grant money, and there is a hardwired sound system in the gym with a cordless mic. Co-presidents will talk to custodians and past PTA presidents for further clarification.
- **PTA Phone Mailbox**-PTA has a mailbox on the Bowman phone menu that is not being checked. Co-Presidents will talk to Dr. Anton/office about removing the option from the menu.
- **PTA meeting location/arrival process**-Presidents would like to make PTA meetings more welcoming. Doors are always locked/lights off when we arrive for PTA meetings. Faculty representatives will share contact info with Presidents to help open doors and will try to arrive early. Signs will also be made to put on doors to share location information.

#### **8:30PM Adjourn**

**Next PTA meeting: 1/9/18**

#### *Upcoming Events:*

- 11/28, 8:45am Principal/Parent discussion
- 11/30, 7pm Yes Campaign Info Session, Bowman Library
- 12/7, 7pm Hour of Code