

PTA Meeting – Agenda

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

7 - 8:30PM

Bowman School Library

In attendance: Jenny Corduck, Gary Van Deurse, Katie Quick, Val Machinist, Stephanie Ryan, Alison Stevens, Rebecca Fagan Gorospe, Brandy Hartford, Monika Manocha, Lisa Premerlani, Jess Quattrocchi, Lauren Avery, Luckshmi V. Girija, Sowmyashree Belur Sowmyakeshava, Cindy Arens, Martha Rogers

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

7:10 PM PTA Business

- Treasurers
 - The PTA received a few thank you notes, one from the Steven Krensky mini-grant we funded, the other from a teacher stipend. It is always nice to hear that the enrichment activities we fund are appreciated!
 - Fifth grade activities are in good shape. Extra fifth grade funds can be donated to the PTA or given as a specific gift(s) to the school.
 - The PTA made \$6K from class baskets – this is remarkably consistent year after year.
 - We received a check from Scholastic for the book fair, and we made about \$5K.
 - The PTA has overall raised about \$50K this year, budget was \$47K so this group did really well! Regardless, in order to maintain activities and not continue to dip into our savings, we need to host a large fundraising event next year as the auction was two years ago.
 - Remaining large expense for the end of the year will be for Nature’s Classroom buses/expenses, the BSO, and spaghetti dinner.
 - Building BOKS into budget for next year – will allocate \$500 for the year.
- Principal update
 - Alphabet rockers coming tomorrow! There will be two performances: K-2 and 3-5.
 - Water filling stations – if the PTA buys them the town will install it. Jenny is waiting for a quote.
 - A discussion took place around some of the potential details regarding a water filling station, including location (would it go outside of the gym in main hallway or should it go in the cafeteria instead?); are they really necessary since there are sinks in the classrooms? If putting them in gets kids/adults drinking more and buying less plastic bottles would it be worth it? We may ask the teachers for input before making a big purchase (~\$1500) such as this. There are pros and cons for each side.
 - We will discuss further once there are more details.
- How we give grants/money next year
 - The PTA has a pool of “mini grant” money to give to teachers. Application is on the PTA website. Jenny approves applications and sends our way, then the PTA votes.
 - Is there a better way of doing this? More structure? When there was more structure in past, no one applied for it.
 - Jenny brought up the idea of offering each grade a pool of money. The goal of these grants should be to extend existing curriculums and give other options to learn, but also gives access to all students to benefit from the programs.

- Also discussed that perhaps teachers should not use this money for professional development, as they can get funding from other sources for that. Jenny feels strongly that the money should give every kid a similar experience regardless of grade and accessibility.
 - Total current pool is \$2K, Jenny would advocate for the school discretionary funds from the PTA going towards this pot as well.
 - (A side note, this year Jenny is using her \$1500 stipend to buy flexible seating for school along with money from the LEF grant we received.)
 - This warrants more discussion to figure out structure, etc.
 - Katie, Gary, Rebecca, Jenny will draft something to share at the next meeting.
- Timing of fundraising (fun run and pancake breakfast)
 - The thought is to plan two large fundraising events for the 2019-2020 school year in lieu of the evening auction. The Bowman community has expressed that daytime and family-oriented events are what they are more interested in attending.
 - The Adventure Run will not happen next year. It's a great community event but doesn't make money and no one wanted to take it on.
 - First idea would be a pancake breakfast on a Saturday morning, similar to spaghetti dinner, and we would auction off teacher experiences. Potentially do this in the fall/November.
 - Second idea would be a fun run that all students could participate in during the school day. Kids solicit sponsorship to run. Jenny did this at her old school and they made \$35K. This would be an event during the school day just for the kids (but would need parent volunteers).
- MSA
 - MSA is merging with another company, Membership Toolkit. We have received notification of this from MSA, as well as somewhat aggressive emails from another company looking to take our business.
 - The change will happen over the next few months. Initial information from MSA seems to indicate we can keep our current contract rate for two more years. We need to learn more about this.
 - While discussing if we should investigate other options out there, it occurred to everyone that the entire district uses MSA, and student information migrates from school to school as they move on. Katie and Gary are going to bring to the next PPC meeting as this will impact the entire district. It will likely not just be a Bowman decision.
 - Other thing to note is that MSA has much more functionality than we use it for (membership, emails and directory).
- We need PTA volunteers to sit at table at K screenings in May. Gary to get times and set up sign-up genius (went out 4/30)
- Planning for next year
 - New program ideas
 - People you know we should reach out to get involved
 - Swag ideas
 - Swag we have recently done:
 - Drawstring bags
 - Tote bags
 - Grocery bags

- o Magnets
- o 3 water bottles
- o Keychains
- o Pencils
- o Pencil sharpeners

Swag ideas for next year:

- o Want a high end, middle and lower end items
- o Need to stay away from spirit wear type items to not compromise that sale
- o Teddy bear keychain with Bowman t-shirt
- o Picnic blanket
- o Baseball hat
- o Ice scraper
- o Umbrellas
- o Beach towels
- o Night light
- o Pop socket for phones

8:15 PM Any other Business

8:30 PM Adjourn

Next PTA meeting:

- May 22, 2019

Upcoming Events:

- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10)
- Passport to the World (May 30)
- Field Day (June 12)