

PTA Meeting – Agenda

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 | 7:00-8:30 PM

Thursday, September 12, 2019 | 8:45 AM

Bowman School Library

In attendance: Umme Arusha, Brandy Hartford, Kim Karelis, Kenji Mashima, Alison Stevens, Iris Goldfarb, Lacey VerHage, Sarah Carter, Jackie Anderson, Joshua Curhan, Gary Van Deurse, Toshiko Oka, Belle Chang, Divya Mathur, Anne Norman, Lisa Premerlani, Melinda Nasardinov, Megan Haggerty, Val Machinist, Rebecca Fagan Gorospe, Katie Quick, Alexa Elliott, Lu Yang, Elaine Reed, Taleen Gleeson

Sign-In, Welcome, and Introductions

Welcome from the 2019-2020 PTA co-presidents Katie Quick and Rebecca Fagan Gorospe.

Overview of what the PTA does (see yellow Bowman PTA support document)

Review of all the programs the PTA supports and funds throughout the year, including:

- School and staff support
- Curriculum enrichment
- Enrichment activities
- Community building events
- Fifth grade activities and moving on ceremony
- Fundraisers to support all of these events

In a nutshell, the PTA supports and funds many different events for the school that are outside the regular curriculum.

New this year, we will be designating grade-level stipend grants (to replace mini-grants) so every grade can bring in inclusive and age appropriate programming for students.

Every 2-3 years the PTA does large fundraising events. This year, the first one is the silent auction and picnic on 9/12/19 (because of multiple rain-outs, the picnic never happened and the auction will be online only leading up to curriculum night on 9/26/19). There will be an event in the spring as well which is TBD. These events are critical to fund the programming the PTA supports.

The annual operating budget of the PTA supports all of this programming, and the budget for 2019-2020 will be voted on in October. Anyone who has questions about the PTA finances can reach out to the treasurers (Elaine Reed and Winnie Pong) at any time at treasurer@bowmanpta.org.

Another wonderful program the PTA supports is an annual stipend for the Bowman staff. Mid-year, most of the teachers/staff will receive a small stipend from the PTA to help offset some of the personal money they spend on supplies for their rooms/programs.

Membership update

As of 9/11/19 we were at 170 memberships, which represents 42% of families. This is roughly where we were at this time in 2018.

New this year is we are going to hand out the swag at back to school/curriculum night.

The PTA is looking for volunteers to help at the table at curriculum night to hand out swag and answer questions in general. Please reach out to Katie, Rebecca or Alison Stevens if you can help.

How can you get involved with the PTA?

It is important to note that you don't have to make a huge commitment to support and be involved with the PTA. We are always happy to accept any amount of help!

Melinda Nasardinov, Bowman's room parent coordinator, gave an overview of the role room parents play. An important thing to remember is that classroom funds are separate from PTA funds. If you have questions about being a room parent, contact Melinda (roomparentcoordinator@bowmanpta.org).

Ms. Goldfarb spoke about Artsonia and the need for volunteers to help with taking pictures of artwork and uploading it to Artsonia. This is a great program that allows friends and relatives to view your child's artwork. If you purchase items from the website a portion of the funds goes to the art program at Bowman.

Help is needed with composting in the cafeteria. This is our second year doing it and it has been really successful, yet parent support is needed, particularly for the younger kids.

The green team also supports other initiatives around the school, including the "zero waste initiative" that you will see at PTA and school events.

Every Monday we send communications out about what's going on in the school, there are always small ways to get involved.

METCO Family Friends (Lisa and Taleen) – match every METCO student with a Bowman host family. Once a month there is a playdate on a Thursday afternoon. They are still looking for support for 2 kindergartners, a third grader and a fifth grader.

REMINDER from Jenny: If you want to volunteer at Bowman for anything, you need to have a valid CORI. If you don't yet, please take care of that. You can check with Chrissy Ashness or Brenda Barnes in the office to see if yours is still valid (they are good for 3 years). Even if you have a CORI for some other program, you still need one specifically for Bowman.

Principal Corduck's update:

- There was an all-school meeting today where they discussed that they will no longer be using STAR student bears, and will roll out something else later this year.
- The theme to start the year is kindness. There is a "choose kindness" bulletin board across from Ms. Glick's office. Students can put their name on a slip, and it means you are committing to following through with an act of kindness.
- Kindness clips – clothespins with kind sayings on them. Idea is when you get one you pass it on to someone else, and you don't know who is giving it to you.
- A group of students presented this to the entire school.
- Parents at meeting tonight are encouraged to take a clothespin home to give to their students.

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Calendar of Events:

9/12/19	Welcome Back Picnic & Teacher Experience Auction 5-7pm
9/25/19	Picture Day
9/26/19	Back-to-School Night (Parents Only)
10/23-31	Book Fair
1/7/20	Math Night – Grades 4 & 5
1/16/20	Book Swap & Bedtime Stories
2/5/20-2/6/20	Science Fair
2/25/20	Math Night – Grades 2 & 3
3/5/20	Spaghetti Dinner
3/17/20	Math Night – Grades K & 1
3/27/20	Variety Show

4/3/20 Disco Bingo Night / Class Basket Raffle
5/29/20 Kids Fun Run Fundraiser
5/29/20 End of Year Picnic
6/10/20 All School Field Day

Communications:

www.bowmanpta.org

bowmanpta.membershiptoolkit.com/

www.facebook.com/BowmanPTA/

www.twitter.com/BowmanLexPTA

groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/bowmanptatalk

Questions? Email president@bowmanpta.org

Next PTA meeting: October 16, 2019