

PTA Meeting – Agenda

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 7:00 - 8:30PM
Zoom Meeting

Attendees

- Jenny Corduck
- Beth Glick
- Iris Goldfarb
- Katie Quick
- Rebecca Fagan Gorospe
- Winnie Tsiang Pong
- Lisa Basile
- Brandy Hartford
- Anne Norman
- Sisy Thomas
- Karin Ornstein
- Elaine Read
- Joshua Curhan
- Laura Lees
- Taleen Gleeson
- Stephanie Ryan
- Lauren Avery
- Alison Stevens
- Amahl Bishara
- Julie Hackett (7:30)
- Margot Tracy
- Suman Murali

7:00 PM Sign-in, Welcome, and Announcements

7:10 PM PTA Business

PTA President Update – PTA Co-President for next year - Anne Norman
(Katie's term will end in June, and Rebecca will continue as PTA Co-President for one more year.)

Treasurers update

Katie - everything looks on track with where it is supposed to be. 5th grade activities - will use some of it for yearbook but will figure out the rest of the funds for 5th grade.

Paid retainer to accountant to get ball rolling to become PTO.

Paid for BSO busses for 5th grade field trip but they did not go on it. Open item if it rolls into next year (Jenny) - first time hearing about this questions specifically. Brenda will issue refunds for Nature's Classroom (Mr. Studley liaison). Once money is refunded then it will be issued back to families - may be delayed from town perspective. Brenda will follow up with the bus company around BSO.

Nature's classroom buses were not paid for them yet.

Classrooms have leftover funds for the classroom - suggestions? No donations from classrooms yet (do not know where they would send them). Most classrooms might be waiting for year end for year end gifts. Survey for classrooms on what you have done with classroom funds, etc. - pass internally for Bowman for heads up on what they are doing. Guidelines went to room parents on how to spend money.

- Lisa - are there expenses standing up digital classroom or subscriptions that room parent funds could be spent on?
- Laura - most of platforms are free for school year - not sure what will look like in the fall. Possibly some teachers didn't have absolutely everything that they needed and ordered some things.
- Rebecca – LPS is concerned with teachers using other platforms vs ones approved and purchased by the school. Some of the platforms farm out kids' data so they are cautious about what online tools the teachers use. There's an electronic data sharing agreement that companies need to sign before LPS will authorize their use.
- Jenny - platforms are approved and vetted and can't share kids' information. Now have clamped down on usags on non-approved platform. Planning - if websites require subscription or planning for lesson - not happening much for paid. Everything used mostly free.
- Lisa - classrooms have a good amount left over - if teachers could think of ideas.
- Jenny - literacy coaches (Tammy McBride) - she bought herself an Elmo to project story she is reading. There are rules around school purchases and guidelines. Would be helpful for Elmos at home for teachers.
- Katie - pool money together for needs in the Fall?
- No regulations on extra fund to be spent this year; but ideally would be spent this year because they were contributed by this year families. They can also donate it back to PTA to help all students.
- Class gift happening for 5th grade? Katie to talk to the 2 leads - talk about year books and see what is left. Have money from last year. - Can donate back to 5th grade activities.
- Laura - creative on how the different gifts would be - would be different.
- Jenny - continue to explore front entry of the building - sign kiosk. Potentially purchase Clark or Diamond swag. Need to get ideas together and share.
- Katie - outdoor speakers, etc.

Jenny - met with counselors and brainstorm for 5th grade - host a chat with 6th graders who were at Bowman. If opening back up in August - likely will host a visit before school starts.

Jenny - 6 from Hastings coming to Bowman. Sometime around May 25 - families leaving will have a zoom meeting with principal and PTA. Will have at least 2 opportunities to come. Bowman will likely have an in person visit before school starts as well.

- Rebecca - potentially scavenger hunts or plans for new families.

Beth - Katie - book fair. Not able to see the book fair on Katie's end, need to contact Scholastic rep. There is a facebook group where people can share books - contact Katie to get added to it.

- Stephanie - if library, you can access online

Rebecca - Lacey is putting together a virtual variety show. Can also put still photos etc.

Jenny - district level how to help those leaving us have closure with Bowman. How to celebrate and say goodbye.

- Alison - something on her mind going to Harrington next year; not being able to say goodbye to teachers as well. Suggested thurs. Afternoon early in the year to just walk through in the Fall, etc.

Stephanie - open house on fundraising nights for other schools

Jenny - back to school picnic

7:30 PM Q&A with Dr Hackett

Introductions of parents to Dr. Hackett

- How is LPS supporting the students in the METCO program?

- How will back to school be handled in the fall?

Dr. Hackett - overview of what has been happening -- so much has been happening, rebuilding systems and structures.

- Biggest update is shift to Power or Bridge standards as a district - after 30 or so days into remote learning, 26 days remaining - how to use that time wisely and respond to feedback received
- 2,365 responses to the survey - 32.5% response rate - good demographic, boston families, ELL, children w/ disabilities - as high or higher than total
- Takeways - things working on and responding to, overall, 81% of families from responses that LPS staff are giving students what they need to be successful
- Response rates from Boston families 98.1% that they were getting what they get what they need from LPS staff, 83% ELL same question, and 3 of 4 special ed families
- Messages in survey - 70%-ish wanted more face 2 face for educators and staff; or social interaction between students. Talked amongst staff how to do that in a coordinated fashion - how to do daily interaction but don't fall on an educator to do that over and over.
- How to offer asynchronous lessons. Looking at recording lessons, etc. Encouraging recordings so convenient for students, families and staff.
- Live experiences - some form of live experience daily.
- How are we supporting Boston families? Have paid a lot of attention to these families and reach out extra for these families. Boston families are doing great - check in everyday with Barbara Hamilton. All staff are still working and reaching out. Delivered chromebooks right away, had internet connections.
- Kids who traditionally do school well sometimes struggle and kids who do better in non-traditional sometimes flourish. Parents have perspective into learning now.
- Re-entry - there is a skeleton plan and the commissioner of education has a task force. Recommendation from the state will not be in until the end of June. - there are a lot of big decisions to make.
- LPS reading reports and recommendations from other states and countries. Share plan by end of June and possibly focus groups to hear from people.

Dr. Hackett - question to parents:

- Stephanie - would depend on what is happening and what Mass suggests. Maybe the possibility of doing something where they see a small group of friends (like BBY) but they respect the distance.
- Dr. Hackett - music - dangerous with face masks and instruments - when thinking about academics in Lexington - think about all of that.
- Karen - if no vaccine in fall, families that have high risk family members
- PPC call - other parents on the call said similar on high risk family members
- Rebecca - when in one week or out one week; for some kids would really struggle
- Dr. Hackett - "regular schedule" - transportation is a big issue - if half day, double transportation; but even don't know about riding on school buses
- Rebecca - Outdoor classrooms etc.
- Winnie - how do teachers feel about going back ? if high risk or being around so many kids
- Joshua - really miss students a lot, felt fortunate to be able to see students virtually; really want to be at school but want to be responsible about this too - err on side of caution, go when it is safe
- Iris - reiterate what Joshua says - concerns for high risk individuals as well
- Lauren - is MA or Lexington decision?
- Dr. Hackett - if Governor releases stay at home - then it is a local decision and works with the board of health on that. Example: asked for closure early on. LPS made the decision ahead of the governor's announcement. Is worried about at risk staff members and families. Know will come up with a plan that meets the needs of the people in Lexington.

- Lisa - been fielding a lot of questions from Bowman families w/ Boston families - know that the parents are out of work, can they get lunch at Boston public schools ? Barbara has not been in touch with them.
- Dr. Hackett - worked with Metco Inc and made sure meals were available - first took care of Boston families and that they had access at different sites. Handled technology needs and delivered chrome books and devices for internet connectivity. CAAL reached out with additional masks and made sure they went to Boston - some families who are essential workers - vast majority went to Boston and some kept in Lexington. Ask daily about what else we can do, but families have responded all set. Taken some donations as gift cards.
- Dr. Hackett - if there is a job loss situation and receiving unemployment - there is an increase in unemployment. Links to community resources.
- Suman - remote learning, wondering when they go back for big transitions - catching up
- Dr. Hackett - getting kids back up to speed - narrow focus and what we are going to target in the remaining days left. Standards missing in the conversation- done very differently than what people are used to. Standards are focused on college and career for curriculum standard, integration of content, skill and process. Lend to critical thinking, etc. More conducive to this kind of environment that we are in now. In terms of covering curriculum - won't have the same challenge as there is more integration. Less worried about catch up and have confidence in teachers to focus on what is important.
- Laura - kids will be delighted to be back, small lag in skills but will quickly remember and go forward and will be stronger and integrate those experiences going forward with the new content.
- Dr. Hackett - most valuable skills they are getting now - so less worried.
- Beth - been in many morning meetings and in numerous classrooms - empathy on what is happening and appreciation and love of valued time; applying their skills in project based ways on connections to others and deeper learning.
- Josh - echo Beth and students with empathy, resilience and bright spots in this time of challenge. Seesaw posts on poetry.
- Lauren - 1-1 and small group through IEP or not - is that going to happen in a remote way?
- Dr. Hackett - big challenge - not sustainable during this period of time but need to organize to make up time and give support. Need to be flexible for all families - some want but can't manage; same for educators. Hybrid model of that and for now it will be what we are using. If longer term issues are what that looks like - regression, summer school, etc.
- Dr. Hackett - will tele therapies provided - there are barriers but discuss this a lot to make it better and easier for parents. Can we give reprieve to families by giving additional support? Need to figure out a middle ground.
- Elaine - feedback from previous system; e.g. have time to eat lunch; or recess time, etc. - going forward we should take into consideration the whole school day
- Dr. Hackett - period of time we need to slow down, reflect and think - what to take from this experience to make things better. Do expect we will do things differently, etc. Right now would be an opportunity to capitalize on that. Even scheduling - remote meetings - now have a way where we have scheduling issues before. Tele Therapies would be better, etc.

Dr Hackett Logged off at 8:30pm

8:30 PM – continuing discussion with Jenny Corduck and Beth Glick

- Serious talks - still happening? It is coming in to some classrooms but in remote learning would be difficult for broad adoption
- 4th grade developmental health class not happening

8:45 PM Adjourn

Upcoming Events:

6/18/20 - Last day of school