

June PTO Minutes

PTO Monthly Meeting

June 17, 2024 - Location Countryside Library & Google Meet

Called to order at 7:03

Attendees- Beth Herlihy, Adam Lipson, Chelsea Boughan, Melissa Monokrousos, Maria Kechri, Tera Hickle, Sue Johnston, Amye Kurson-Collins, Jill Tucker, Melissa Hagerstrom, Beth Harmon, Janet Jackson, Adam Bernstein, Saha Zaheer, Baraba Mauger, Lori Zinner, Steve Lee, Noori Abassi, Ashia Ray, Casey Allen, Sana Rizvi, Amanda Wong, Shion Walsh and Julie Winsett

Principal's Updates:

- Building Updates- anticipate start of construction next Spring; awaiting decision by Anna Nolin regarding if students will remain in current building during construction vs. be bussed to a swing space; strong community and staff support to stay in current building during construction of new building; there will be two phases of construction, first build new school and second tear down old school if students stay on site. If students go to swing space these two phases can overlap; as of now anticipated completion of new building to where students can have class there is the spring semester of 2027

- Principal Coffee Recap- the topic was "Keep learning going over the summer". Slide deck of presentation was included in the June 16 PTO Update and is available [here](#)

- End of year remarks- the last week has been amazing with all of the community events. From Dolly Day, the 5th grade Talent Show, SpringFest, and Field day. Beth Herlihy stated she would be reading [The Anxious Generation](#) this summer and has invited parents and staff to read as well. Due to the early releases later this week the 3rd grade field trip to Plimoth Patuxet is rescheduled for June 25. 5th grade graduation will go on as planned on Thursday morning at 9am.

Discussion Topics

- Bylaws Committee- Bylaws last updated in 2004. Intent/goal of updating the Bylaws is to match what has/is been happening in/with the PTO in them. The proposed Bylaws in redlined version was emailed to the full Board and all PTO members who are on the emailing list for meetings (these are people who have shown interest in obtaining a google meet link or have attended meetings in the past in person). Members are encouraged to email the Bylaws review committee with concerns/questions. There were concerns voiced that the purpose in the Bylaws was too vague and that the document overall is not accessible to all. Plan to have a memo to go out with revised proposed Bylaws within the week that will include a summary of proposed changes and list of resources used for creating these updates; this will be in a google doc so that google translate may be used as needed. Anticipate virtual Board vote on June 28.

- Review and vote on 2024-2025 proposed PTO Budget- Treasurer presented current 2023-2024 (FY24) planned Budget and Actual expenditures along with proposed 2024-2025

(FY25) Budget. Melissa Monokrousos motioned to pass the FY25 Budget with Barbara Mauger seconding the motion. The Budget passed 13 to 0

- Vote on board positions for next year- Proposed slate of new Board members as follows: Co-President- Tera Hickie and Maria Kechri, Adam Lipson continuing with second year of his term, Treasurer- Steve Lee, serving a one year extension, Co-Clerk- Chelsea Boughan to join Erin Kapoor who is continuing with her second year of her term, Fundraising Chair- Amye Kurson-Collins to be added as a co-chair with Casey Allen continuing with the second year of her term, CAS co-chairs- Denitsa Brown to join Amanda Wong who is continuing with her second year of her term, At-Large Board members- Jill Tucker, Sahar Zaheer, Barbara Mauger, Julie Winsett, Sue Johnston, and Jess Lourie, ELL Committee Chair- Melissa Monokrousos. Adam Lipson made a motion to pass the slate of nominees with Steve Lee seconding the motion. Slate approved with 12 yeas and 1 abstention.

Community Events

-5th Grade Graduation 6/20: The 5th graders have had a great 5th grade experience this year, complete with class t-shirt, community service project, 5th grade Field day at the Cove, Graduation Party and yearbook. Graduation is thursday at 9am

-Room Parent Coordinators: deadline extended to collect pooled funds, but on track to be able to give \$40-\$45 per staff member in the pool

Additional Updates/Recap on Past Events

-Auction/Parent Party Recap- sold 50 tickets to the parent party. Event held at The Social in Newton corner. Auction was mostly online this year with a few items up for silent auction at the parent party. Will re-evaluate if the auction will continue next year given the labor involved. Amye stated she wasn't sure she would run the auction next year after comments she received this year.

-Field Day Recap- Went great! Mr. Smith is already thinking about ways to improve for next year. While there were less events this year than in previous years, kids still had plenty of games to play.

-Art Showcase Recap- went great!

-Springfest Recap: well attended

-Welcoming Committee Update: Beth Harmon to head the committee next school year. Invited new/incoming K families to attend SpringFest which was well received.

-4th Grade Art Contest Recap: Had 9 submissions and students voted. Maria K to email winners.

-Online School Supplies Update: Deadline is July 1st. Reminder emails will continue to go out until then.

Misc Items, Discussion, Input/Ideas

-Gaga Ball Pit Status: Order placed and will be ready to use when school starts back up in the Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm