

Boylston Elementary School

PTO Membership Meeting

October 1, 2020

Attendance: Please refer to sign in sheet.

Note: This meeting was held virtually.

Agenda:

Item #1: Principal report

Mr. Thompson thanked families for their patience and flexibility as school administration made and revised plans for the start of the school year. He said that the school year is off to a good start, and that it is wonderful to have students back in the building.

Mr. Thompson said that the first few weeks of the school year were focused on checking in on students' social and emotional needs and getting students into the routines of this very different school year. Now, school staff are focusing on collecting data about students' academic learning and challenges. He said that some staff time will be spent analyzing learning standards and planning for how those will be addressed in this current school year. Mr. Thompson also shared that while MCAS did not take place last year, it has been announced that it will take place this year.

Mr. Thompson shared that the faculty council is planning a reverse parade for students to celebrate Halloween. Students would drive through the pick-up/drop-off route in their costumes, with faculty in costumes waving and cheering. He asked if the PTO could be interested in passing something out to students. The board said that they would be interested in participating, and Lubby Dumais, co-chair, would reach out.

Item #2: PTO fall update

Jackie Hoffses, co-chair, acknowledged that this year's PTO contributions and activities will be different due to safety and funding.

Staff support: Jackie said that to celebrate back-to-school, in lieu of sponsoring the usual refreshments for staff, the PTO provided all BES staff with \$5 gift cards. She said that this year the PTO will continue its usual teacher reimbursements for supplies, but staff mini-grants are paused for now.

Assemblies: Jackie said that the PTO paid deposits for last spring's cancelled assembly, Hollyrock, and Kindergarten's Mike the Bubbleman presentation. She raised the possibility of looking for spring calendar dates for those assemblies but said that assemblies might not be a safe option this year.

Other events: The fall family dance and spring talent show are on hold for now. A meeting attendee recommended a potential virtual dance party for students held on Zoom or another platform.

Fundraising: Jackie said that with spring's cancellation of the talent show and Race For Education, the PTO will need to continue fundraising this year to ensure it can continue to support BES students and staff. The fall magazine drive is suspended until spring, as it didn't seem like an appropriate time for a large fundraiser. A fall swag sale might be planned, as the PTO has an inventory of BES-themed items from a previous year's fundraising. It was discussed that the PTO receives some revenue from programs such as Amazon smile, and Stop and Shop A+ rewards. The Box Tops For Education program provides less revenue now that it has transitioned to a digital format. A suggestion was made to investigate whether additional grocery stores offer school rewards, and to publicize Amazon smile to BES families. A suggestion was also made to hold a donation drive similar to one being held by Tahanto. Meeting attendees felt that families might wish to support the PTO with a direct donation. The board will look into this.

Other: The PTO decorated the lobby with balloons and teddy bears wearing yellow BES shirts for Kindergarten orientation. They also provided all incoming Kindergarteners with BES water bottles.

The next meeting will take place virtually on November 12, 2020 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Kristin Milton, Secretary