

Boylston Elementary School

PTO Membership Meeting

November 12, 2020

Note: This meeting was held virtually.

Agenda:

Item #1: Principal report

Mr. Thompson said that students have adjusted well to this year's new protocols and it has been a pleasure to see them thriving despite the challenges presented by social distancing and a hybrid model.

Mr. Thompson shared the results of a recent family survey conducted by the school district. Two-thirds of families in the district responded. Three-fourths of respondents stated that they felt comfortable with a full return to school. Mr. Thompson said that one challenge is transportation, as with the current distancing guidelines there are not enough buses to fit the number of students. The school committee will discuss the results of the survey at their next meeting. The survey also collected specific feedback related to remote learning experiences in each grade level, and that data will be shared with grade-level teachers.

Mr. Thompson also reviewed a new travel policy recently adopted by the school committee, which mirrors a travel advisory issued by the Governor. Students who travel out of state must quarantine from school for 14 days.

Mr. Thompson also said that as the end of the trimester approaches, a notice will go out to families that they can reevaluate and revise their choice of hybrid vs full remote model.

Mr. Thompson also stated that BES students have completed their fall AIMSweb assessments. It was anticipated that there would be a significant slide in achievement compared to a typical year due to the school closure and transition to remote learning in the spring, and this fall's hybrid model as students spent less time in the classroom. However, the regression was not as significant as expected, and in fact most students maintained or gained skills. Mr. Thompson thanked parents and teachers for partnering to educate their children, and he said that the data will be used to address and support students' learning needs. He also said that he is always available to answer questions about this or any topic.

Item #2: Teacher report

Mrs. Gaucher thanked the PTO for the support this fall, and for contributing to the goodie bags for the reverse Halloween parade. Although the parade was cancelled due to rain, she will save the items possibly for next year.

Item #3: Fall swag sale

Libby Dumais, co-chair, shared a draft of the order form for the upcoming BES swag sale. Items include blankets in blue or grey, umbrellas, car magnets, and water bottles. Orders will be filled in the order they are received, and if we happen to run out of an item, refunds can be issued. Payment can be made by check or PayPal.

Item #4: BES bobcat t-shirts

Marie Johnson, co-treasurer, is working on finding a new vendor for the t-shirts.

Item #5: PTO fundraising donation drive

Cindy Mackenzie, co-treasurer, shared a draft of a flyer for the upcoming donation drive. The flyer included four suggested levels of support/donations, in the amount of 10, 15, 20, and 25 dollars. Contributions can be made by check or PayPal. The group discussed ideas for the best timing for the donation drive, and whether it should occur before or after the swag sale, and that Mrs. Sullivan will also collect donations for the annual holiday giving campaign around the same time frame. The board will work on figuring out the timing.

The next meeting will take place virtually on January 7, 2021 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Kristin Milton, Secretary