

Boylston Elementary School

PTO Membership Meeting

January 7, 2021

Note: This meeting was held virtually.

Agenda:

Item #1: Principal report

Mr. Thompson discussed the district's pivot to remote learning, beginning the week before the holiday break. He said that currently there is no official date for a return to the hybrid model. The decision is made week-to-week based on information including numbers of active Covid-19 cases in each town. Mr. Thompson said that he has been joining classroom zoom lessons whenever possible, and that he has been impressed by teachers' remote teaching efforts.

Mr. Thompson shared that information has been released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about this spring's MCAS testing for grades 3-5. The tests will be shorter than in previous years and will take less time to administer. Mr. Thompson said details have yet to be worked out regarding what testing will look like in the remote schedule or for remote learners.

Mr. Thompson also said that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has released new guidelines regarding students' time on learning. Schools are required to provide synchronous teaching, either in person or via Zoom or another platform, for a minimum of 35 hours per 10 school days. As a result, families should expect a significant increase in the amount of Zoom sessions their children are required to attend. This includes on hybrid days. More information about scheduling will follow. This policy goes into effect during the week of January 19.

Item #2: Swag sale update

Libby Dumais, co-chair, reported that the PTO made \$194 from the swag sale. It was discussed that perhaps there could be another swag sale in the spring, as the PTO has a large inventory of BES umbrellas.

Item #3: Fundraising donation drive update

Cindy Mackenzie, co-treasurer, said that the PTO made \$800 as a result of the donation drive. The PTO received 26 monetary donations from BES families.

Cindy also reported that the PTO made \$45.80 in donations from the Book Fair. Families had the option to donate the difference of their child's purchase amount and the prewritten check they sent in with their child.

Item #4: BES bobcat t-shirt update

Marie Johnson, co-treasurer, said that she has found a new vendor for the t-shirts. She suggested a February timeframe for the t-shirt sales.

Item #5: Magazine drive and Race For Education

Jackie Hoffses, co-chair, asked the group for feedback regarding the magazine drive fundraiser and the Race For Education fundraiser, which typically serve as primary fundraising opportunities each year. The group felt that some fundraising should be planned for the spring in an effort to make up for funds lost through cancellation of last spring's and this fall's events. Jackie said the magazine drive could be rescheduled for the spring, or cancelled entirely this year. She said there is also an online only program that can be offered. Race For Education fundraising happens online or through the mail which seems feasible, but it typically ends with a celebratory school-wide "race" event, which seems unlikely due to social distancing regulations. Mr. Thompson said that he could help the PTO find a creative solution for a celebratory event that fits distancing guidelines. Attendees felt that this topic could be revisited at the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place virtually on February 4, 2021 at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Kristin Milton, Secretary