

Boylston Elementary School

PTO Membership Meeting

February 4, 2021

Note: This meeting was held virtually.

Agenda:

Item #1: Principal report

Mr. Thompson said that the district is in the process of planning the transition from the hybrid model to a full return. The goal is for students to return to a full-time in-person schedule the week after April vacation.

Mr. Thompson said that BES is planning the annual community reading day. This year, the community readers will participate through video. Mr. Thompson thanked Mrs. Kelleher for coordinating the event, and the PTO for providing the books.

An attendee asked Mr. Thompson if the district had considered reaching out to the Board of Health or another agency to coordinate a mass vaccination event for school staff when they become eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. Mr. Thompson said that the district and staff are awaiting more information but will try to support staff vaccination any way possible.

Item #2: Teacher report

Mrs. Barry attended the meeting and offered her daughter's help with fundraising this spring. Her daughter is a fundraising coordinator for a nonprofit organization and she offered to share her expertise with the PTO and assist in planning the spring fundraising events. Mrs. Barry said she could help the PTO modify this year's Race For Education to fit the unusual circumstances, or to plan another virtual event. The attendees felt that this would be very helpful.

Item #3: Race For Education

Jackie Hoffses, co-chair, asked the group for feedback about planning this year's Race For Education since the typical celebratory race event won't be possible due to social distancing. Mr. Thompson said that if the school is still in a hybrid model at that time, there could be two possible "race" days. Perhaps the event could happen one class at a time on the back field, or it could be a socially distanced walkathon instead. An attendee suggested a scavenger hunt at BES.

Jackie said that in the past, students filled out and brought in sheets of address labels, and completed and assembled the mailers at school. Since PTO volunteers won't be able to come to the school and help with mailers, perhaps students could complete the mailers at home and send them to school for the PTO to mail.

Jackie said in the past, students received prizes based on the amount of labels brought in. She proposed that this year, fewer mailers could be required to qualify for prizes to cut down on duplicates for the sake of prizes and save on postage. Also, in the past, students who brought in the most labels received a limosine ride and lunch at Cheffee's. This year, perhaps the prize could be a picnic lunch outside at BES with Mr. Thompson. Classroom participation prizes will need to be determined as well.

The group felt that more details can be worked out after meeting with Mrs. Barry's daughter for more ideas.

Item #4: Treasurer report

Marie Johnson, co-treasurer, shared a treasurer report which is on file.

Item #5: BES bobcat t-shirts

Marie Johnson said that a new vendor has been chosen for the t-shirts. A few of the colors available are slightly different than usual. The tie-dye shirts will not be available for the adults, but perhaps grey or cobalt blue can be offered instead. Jackie Hoffses will work on a draft of the order form and it will be sent out at the beginning of March.

Item #6: Assemblies

Libby Dumais, co-chair, said that she is waiting to hear back about the Hollyrock trivia assembly. She said it can be done virtually, or she can look into postponing it until later in the spring and doing it outdoors. Mr. Thompson suggested that it could take place on a remote Wednesday as part of the scheduled virtual enrichment. He thought that splitting the school into two Zoom sessions, one for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-5, could work out nicely. Libby will discuss these options with Hollyrock.

Marie Johnson said the PTO had already submitted payment for last spring's cancelled Mike the Bubbleman assembly for Kindergarten, and that payment can be used for this year's assembly. If we are in a hybrid model, we will need to add a second date. Marie will reach out to plan for this event later in the spring.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:10 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Kristin Milton, Secretary