

Boylston Elementary School

PTO Membership Meeting

April 1, 2021

Note: This meeting was held virtually.

Agenda:

Item #1: Principal report

Mr. Thompson thanked the PTO for sponsoring the Hollyrock assemblies that were held virtually on 3/31. He said that students seemed to have an easy time accessing the links and that he received some positive feedback that it was a nice break for students and teachers.

Mr. Thompson discussed the upcoming full-time return for students on 4/5. He said the school will be celebrating with balloons and streamers, live music played by Keith Lewis, and with bracelets for all students. It will be a planned "Bobcat day."

Mr. Thompson discussed recent changes to student drop-off and pick-up procedures. Monday 3/29 was the first day of the new procedures for Cohort A, and it was slower as students, parents, and staff went through the routines for the first time. Tuesday things went faster. Today (Thursday) it was slower as Cohort B experienced the procedures for the first time, but he anticipated it would also improve. He is planning to add an additional staff member to assist. Mr. Thompson anticipated that on Monday 4/5, when both Cohorts are together for the first time, drop-off and pick-up will likely take longer and there will likely be kinks to work out but it will become more efficient. Mr. Thompson said that the buses are not accepting additional students at this time. He said there is still room in the before and after school childcare sessions for interested families.

Mr. Thompson said the school is beginning to prepare for MCAS testing. He said that this year, the tests are reduced in length to one test session per content area. He said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will allow remote testing for students who are quarantined due to Covid-19 exposure. Mr. Thompson said he has heard some talk of families wishing to opt out of testing this year, and he will figure out those details and logistics if that is the case. Mr. Thompson said during testing days, the school is hoping to prioritize keeping continuity in the school day so that students feel less pressure in an otherwise stressful year. They will still attend scheduled specials, etc. He just wants students to do the best they can.

Item #2: Mike the Bubbleman Kindergarten Assembly

Marie Johnson, co-treasurer, reported that she has been working on rescheduling the Mike the Bubbleman assembly that was cancelled last spring. She was hoping that the assembly could take place outside, but it must happen indoors. Mr. Thompson said that he would check on how this could work, possibly in the gym.

#### Item #3: Upcoming PTO board member elections

Jackie Hoffses, co-chair, said that PTO elections will take place at next month's meeting (May 6<sup>th</sup>). Positions up for election/reelection include co-chair and co-treasurer. Positions are a two-year term.

#### Item #4: Race For Education

Jackie Hoffses said that the group has been working on planning this year's Race For Education. The event is scheduled for May 21 and it will be a scavenger hunt-style with individual classes participating at different times rather than large event. Jackie said she anticipates the introduction letter will go home with students on or around Tuesday 4/6.

#### Item #5: Virtual talent show

Jackie Hoffses said that the talent show will be a virtual one again this year. There will be no fee to participate. Similar to last year, students can send in a video of their act to Mr. Thompson, by 5/15. Videos should be under two minutes. Mr. Thompson will edit and compile all videos into one talent show video and release it to students and families in June. Cindy Mackenzie, co-treasurer, will create the informational flyer.

#### Item #6: Virtual trivia night

Libby Dumais said that so far only a few families have signed up for the trivia night. Members of the meeting suggested that it might help if Mr. Thompson mentioned it in the blog, and if the prizes are mentioned. Libby said that even if turnout isn't as high as expected, the event will be relatively cost-efficient since she was able to create the quiz on the free MyQuiz platform and the PTO will only need to pay for a one month membership to the platform to cover the actual event, plus the cost of the prizes.

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

Meeting adjourned 7:20 pm.

Respectfully signed,

Kristin Milton, Secretary