

Bolton PTA General Meeting

MINUTES

October 20, 2014

I. Welcoming Remarks: For anyone who is new here tonight and for those who are not, I need to remind everyone that the PTA is required to follow Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order at the meetings. This may seem formal but we are required to do so by our bylaws. PTA meetings are open to everyone; however, voting on matters is limited to dues paying members only. You can't vote unless you are an official PTA member.

II. Reports of Administrators, Teachers, Community Liaisons

a. Superintendent of Schools

- a. Feel that we are missing a strategic plan. We are going to be doing that process from January to May this year. I will be looking for a few parent volunteers. If it is something you are interested in please see me so we can build that plan.
- b. We have District Goals and Performance Standards that have been approved from 2014-2017.
- c. The board has adopted 3 core goals
 - i. Encourage a positive, safe and accepting culture in all schools for students, staff, and our community.
 - ii. Promote learning environments that prepare students for college, careers, and life in the 21st century.
 - iii. Review and update board policies and regulation
- d. Came in at 5.34% last year. I want you to understand where that number came from. Please see the Budget Information sheet. If budgets continue to fail you are looking at the dismantling of a good education system. The second referendum failed by 13 votes. I heard that people voted no because they wanted the next referendum to be higher. I need you to understand that each time it gets voted down the number only gets lowered.
- e. We have done a very good job of pairing things down, however we need your help to ensure that this budget passes on the first try.
- f. There will be new science standards coming out, we are in good shape with LA and Math for grades k-9, but there are still resources that teachers need to make this engaging for our students. We also need to improve our technology infrastructure. We have already begun to do this with new computer labs through grant funds. I think what has been lost is that grant funds in our school are necessities when these funds should really be for extras not needs.

b. BCS Administration

Mary Grande – Shared the Coherence Framework as well as the budget information.

- November 7th School newsletter going out
- New staff joined us this year

- Mr. Giard apologizes for not being here tonight, he is out on Professional Development.
- Boston Science Museum came for our third graders last week.
- The Bolton Fire Department did a presentation last week.
- Progress Notes have gone out for PreK-4. 5-8 families should have received information electronically for the Portal Plus.
- Mexican Artist came last Friday for Grades 6-8
- Pops Concert on Thursday night.
- Picture make up day will be Nov. 5th
- Veteran's Day assembly is coming up on Nov. 10th. Its open to all Veterans of Bolton.
- Mad Science stated
- The teachers are learning their way with the Chrome Books and all teachers have received new desk tops.
- Budget meetings this week with the core leaders, very pleased with the items brought to me.

c. Board of Education

Kate Gale – PTA liaison.

- November 13th – next Board of Ed meeting at 6:30. We encourage all parents to attend.
- Starting with some budget workshops soon
- Working on Negotiating our Teachers Contract
- Working on updating our Board of Ed policies
- Working to ensure that the teachers are getting proper Professional Development.
- Staff is continuing to align curriculum with the Common Core State Standards.
- New Chrome Books given to teachers to use in the classroom this was purchased through a grant.

III. Reports of PTA Officers

a. President

- a. Flyer on the table about Bolton Motors. If you bring a flyer or mention the flyer they will donate 5% of total invoice to Bolton Center School PTA.

b. Vice President

- a. Sponsorship for the Trunk or Treat. The Women's club is not going to do the Halloween party this year. We will be doing the Trunk or Treat this year flyers will be going home soon. We are asking each car that participates to donate a canned good.

c. Secretary

- a. Nothing to report

d. Treasurer's report

- a. Please see narrative

- i. Listed as author visit was actually Mexican artist

IV. Reports of Standing Committees, Special Committees, & Event Chairs

- a. Playground committee report from Jenny Norris
 - a. History of the playscape, started fundraising in 2007. First year raised 10,000 dollars worked really hard and got a matching grant for \$25,000 from Boundless Playgrounds. 25% would be reimbursed to us at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Put in \$100,000 playscape.
 - b. We do have to continue fundraising so that we can do upkeep on the playground. We do the basket fundraiser. It will be in March. We are looking for new volunteers to help out.
 - c. We are working on fixing the current “poured in placed” as well as replacing the engineered wood fiber chips.
- b. Membership
 - a. 240 Members
 - b. Directories are going to print we should have them by the end of this week.
- c. Enrichment
 - a. A couple of visit from the Boston Science Musuem
 - i. Rock detective – 3rd grade
 - ii. States of matter – 2nd grade
 - b. Mexican artist came last week for grades 5-8
 - c. Annual career day committee day is slated to meet each month – co-chairs are Chris Davey and Emily Bradley. May 14th is the date. We do need help if you would like to assist please contact us. This is for grades 6-8.
 - d. Usually run and annual read a-thon tied to Six Flags. As of right now I have no one to run this event. Anyone who may be willing to help out please let me know.
 - e. We are running a fundraiser read-a-thon for grades 6-8. Feb. 23rd though March 6th. Fabulous prizes to entice. Kelly Ross and Pam Halenar will be running that.
- d. Ways & Means, Box Tops
 - a. Box Tops – contest is going on now. Due the 29th our goal is \$3000. The top collector will get a book fair gift certificate.
 - b. We have four fundraisers this year.
 - c. The students just finished Square 1 Art. This will be sent home on October 31st and it is due on November 10th.
 - d. November 10th we will be selling cookies and pies that will end Nov. 24th
 - e. February we will be selling Munson’s chocolates
 - f. In the Spring we will be Mixed Bags
 - g. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. A suggestion was made that perhaps the girl/boy scouts help out.
 - h. We are looking into Spirit Wear that will be available all year.
- e. Run to Read
 - a. The profit will be down; we did not have the participation we were hoping for. Each school will get about \$1500 for the libraries.
- f. Legislative Advocacy

g. Variety Show

- Limit the number of kids this week because we are down 2 coaching teams.
- First paid 100 kids will be in the show unless we get more coaches
- Show will be in March
- This year's theme is TV through the years

h. SEPTA

- Septa is the Special Education PTA that is now a committee under the PTA umbrella.
- See the KidsFirst newsletter there are some good links and pieces of information for parents who may be looking for more information.

i. Career Day – We will need volunteers so please see us if you are interested in helping out.

V. New Business

a. Motion to move Hearts Together Fund into general fund

Jen Norris makes a motion to move the fund into the general fund. Kate Gale seconds and the motion passed.

b. Need a new chair for the Read-a-thon

c. Need new chair for the playground committee

d. Need someone to run the raffle baskets fund raiser during Varsity Show, that money goes into the Playground Campaign

VI. Open Forum/Announcements

VII. Adjournment