

PTO Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009

Principal Francine Goldstein gave a Smart Board presentation. There are currently 2 smart boards in Bancroft. One in the library and one in Mrs. Little's 5th grade classroom. The one on Mrs. Little's classroom is a trial and we may opt to buy it at the end of the school year w/ a small discount. There are also other brands of smart boards. Mrs. MacAllister and Miss Cho are going to try the Parmethian model for 90 days. The only difference is the software. Francine is thinking that we should look into these even though Bancroft is going to be rebuilt because that may be 3-4 years and why not have them.

School update:

- Francine is very happy to be at Bancroft permanently
- Happy the kids can finally have outdoor recess
- MCAS schedule has now been posted on the website.
- Francine has been having lunch with the 5th grade classes and will now do the same with the 4th graders. During the lunches with the 5th graders they did protest that they had to wait 5 years to eat with their friends and did not think it was fair that everyone gets to eat with their friends once a week. She asked them to go back to their friends to see what would be a good way to compensate. The 5th grade voted for a 5th grade celebration. It would be on a Friday towards the end of school for a couple of hours for fun and games.
- Jump Rope for Heart was neat to see. Maybe we could do something like that at Bancroft.
- Massachusetts Book Award Voting/Breakfast was recently held in the Library. 7 children read all 25 books and there were many others that read at least 5 books from the list in order to cast their vote for their favorite book.
- We had 2 honorable mentions in the Bookmark contest from Bancroft!
- There was a question on how we can keep kids more active during indoor recess. It is difficult w/ staggered lunch times to be able to use the gym etc.. Will work on getting kids out more next year.

Math Bug

- Heather McConelly re-capped the Math Bug. There was overall 68% of participation with K and 2nd grades having the most overall participation.
- A little over \$5,300 was raised! Heather would like to see the numbers go up next year along with a way to get more participation from the 5th graders.
- All information was posted on web-site and Heather thanked the volunteers especially Astrid Niesen and Kellie Altafar as well as Denise Boucher.
- Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Sweeney thanked the PTO for the money that was given to all the grades and that the money is very helpful to the teachers.

There was discussion/shared comments on the following re: the Math Bug:

- There was some confusion on the money raised in the Math Bug and how it was going to be divided.
- The teachers feel as though since they are such a close community that they would like the funds shared across the board with all the teachers that work in the school ex. reading specialists etc..
- maybe we could label this fundraiser that all of the contributions would go directly to the teachers.
- The teachers did like the time of the year this was offered.
- The cookie dough fundraiser will not be done at the same time next year.
- Need more parent volunteers next year.
- Would like to see more 4th and 5th graders involved.

President Karen Marotta reported on the following:

- Mona Goldwaithe was not able to make the meeting, but wanted everyone to know that there were 100 participants this year. 1st-3rd grades had the highest amount of participants. 30 stories went to the Reading Rainbow contest!
- The next PTO meeting will take place during the day at Bancroft on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 in the CAFETERIA from 9:15-10:15. There will be another Smart Board presentation at this meeting.
- PTO Openings were discussed. Anyone interested in becoming active in the PTO should go to the website and see the openings on the various committees. Please keep in mind all that the PTO does for the Bancroft Community and please see how you can help now or in the following school year. Remember: Any position can have a co-chair. This may make it easier to volunteer if you have a friend that you may want to work with.

Building Update, Christa DiNapoli:

- Things are moving forward. Opinions are critical so please attend this meeting if at all possible. The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library. Please see the Bancroftpto.com website under School Building News for details and current updates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Brosnan, Secretary