

## **Bancroft PTO General Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

*Bancroft School Media Center*

### **PTO Board Attendees:**

- Sara Wells
- Laura Rosi
- Jennifer Carr-Loveland
- Sandra Adourian
- Amy Hamilton
- Jennifer O’Handley
- Rebecca Peterson
- Amy Whitehead

### **Other Attendees:**

- Principal, Michelle Costa
- Teacher Representative, Tim Harkins
- Teacher Representative, Frank McCall
- Cultural Arts, Emily DiCesaro
- Cultural Arts, Rebecca Joyner
- Lazarus House Representative, Ellen Bedrosian
- Lazarus House Representative, Laura Miller
- Andona Representative, Renee Poor

**Other Bancroft Parents:** 8 representing K-5 (*names in PTO records*)

Sara called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and introduced herself as PTO President.

### **Lazarus House Presentation**

Ellen Bedrosian and Laura Miller gave an overview of Lazarus House programs and thanked the PTO and the community for past and ongoing support. Sara asked how parents and Bancroft families can get involved. They provided details about volunteer opportunities including the family shelter, arranging a dinner, and supporting the food pantry. Any and all help is appreciated. Ms. Costa explained that Bancroft is working to have one focus a month. She suggested publishing something together in the newsletter with a few options so parents can choose how they want to help. Setting up a liaison between Lazarus House and Bancroft was also mentioned.

### **Andona Awareness**

Renee Poor, Andona PR Chair, presented facts about Andona and how they serve Andover including the elementary schools. She highlighted the current fundraiser and upcoming event, *Shine the Light on Andover*, happening Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Their goal is to sell 500 *Shine the Light* kits. Renee had kits available and sold some at the meeting. They are looking for (1) “Neighborhood Champions” to promote the event, (2) general involvement, and (3) help to increase awareness about the organization. Ms. Costa asked if there was a due date for funding requests; Renee said it’s in May.

### **Cultural Arts Update**

Rebecca Joyner and Emily DiCesaro, Cultural Arts committee members, mentioned the upcoming Wampanoag workshop (Rob Aptaker - Native American Culture) for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. They need one volunteer for this event. In the future, they would like to provide parents with information ahead of time so parents can ask their child(ren) questions afterward to enhance the experience.

### **Cultural Arts (continued)**

The **APS Media Release form** was brought up since it prevents some event photos from being shared with the school community. Some parents find the form confusing and chose the wrong option by mistake. Ms. Costa said they are already collecting files and ideas for next year's events. Also, the Instructional Assistant (IA) has been a great help. Rebecca asked if Bancroft can "gift" a program to another school or community. Sara explained the PTO is sensitive to how funds are spent and is careful to use the money to benefit Bancroft. Ms. Costa suggested paying for a bus to bring outside students to Bancroft to share a program. This would be appropriate for grade-specific events. Bancroft students would learn about sharing and develop friendships. Ms. Costa will ask the staff about starting a pilot program. Laura Rosi asked about ways other schools and communities could reciprocate so it's a true sharing (buddy) program. Ms. Costa also explained each year they include a minimum of one: (1) musical performer/performance, (2) author/storyteller, (3) content-related event, and (4) kick-off event with a message. Future workshops are often based on teachers' feedback.

### **Book Fair, Art Show, Heritage Night, and Spirit Wear**

A combination of events is taking place Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Book Fair committee members, Amy Hamilton and Amy Whitehead, provided information about the book fair also happening during school hours this week. Ms. Costa said the spring book fair will be during library hours and Ms. Snow will teach students how to browse and buy; it will also expand to K-1 students. The fall Art Show is for grades K-2. Andona can promote *Shine the Lights* kits.

### **Community Read-A-Long**

Rebecca Peterson spoke about the Read-A-Long being held on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. It happens throughout Andover and is sponsored by local PTOs and the League of Women Voters. It's designed to get children excited about reading. Bancroft will have 28 readers, one in each class. Volunteers are still needed.

### **Staff Holiday Lunch**

The Holiday Lunch is Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Hoping for a better volunteer turnout, specific grades will be asked to help with each lunch (Holiday, grades 4-5; May, grades 2-3; End of Year (EoY), grades K-1). The PTO asked for suggestions or requests in order to make the luncheons better. Ms. Costa will ask the staff and has ideas for the Teacher Appreciation/EoY Lunch. A parent asked if they can be catered; it's very expensive.

### **Other**

Sara requested any **SignUpGenius** lists be done through the PTO so they're consistent and easy to find. They'll be available (linked) on the PTO website. The PTO will also have the history of past events so it's easier to create SignUps year after year.

A parent asked if there was a **shared Google Drive**; "not yet".

Ms. Costa talked about the **Turkey Trot** which is on the day before Thanksgiving. It's a day of community building at Bancroft. She will ask Mrs. King if they need volunteers.

Meeting adjourned around 8:30pm.