

## **Bancroft PTO General Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, January 8, 2018*

*Bancroft School Media Center*

### **PTO Board Attendees:**

- Sara Wells
- Laura Rosi
- Jennifer Carr-Loveland
- Sandra Adourian
- Jennifer Colleran
- Amy Hamilton
- Jennifer O'Handley
- Melissa Nelson
- Rebecca Peterson

· Danielle Solari

· Amy Whitehead

### **Other Attendees:**

- Principal, Michelle Costa
- Teacher Representative, Kristen Moriarty
- Science Fair Committee Member, Marla Chae
- School Committee Representative, Shannon Scully

**Other Bancroft Parents:** 4 representing K-5 (*names in PTO records*)

Sara called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

### **Past Events Recap**

- **Book Fair, Art Show, Heritage Night, and Spirit Wear** on November 16<sup>th</sup>;
- **Community Read-A-Long** on November 17<sup>th</sup>;
- **Staff Holiday Lunch** on December 21<sup>st</sup>;

### **Upcoming Events**

- Ms. Costa invited **Recycled Percussion's** Justin Spencer and a bandmate to perform for the entire school on Wed, January 10<sup>th</sup>. They will promote *Chaos & Kindness* which includes lessons on character development.
- **Orff and Chorus** evening concert on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>; daytime concert on Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>;
- **Bingo Night** on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>; Amy Hamilton, committee member, said they need volunteers;
- **Science Fair** on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>; the deadline to register is Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>; Marla Chae, committee member, asked Ms. Costa if it they can also include a mini science exhibition and invite the middle school and high school science clubs; Ms. Costa approved;
- **Learning Labs** begin February 26<sup>th</sup>;
- **Kindergarten Registration** is the last week of February; Sara is putting a list together of incoming Kindergartners and will provide school and PTO information to those parents;
- **Variety Show** on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>; rehearsal on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>; a SignUpGenius will be available soon;
- **Movie Night** is "in the works" and will be open to all students in grades 3-5;
- **Spring Fling** on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>;
- **Progressive Dinner** on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>; dinner & dessert hosts are still needed;

### **PTO Display Case**

The PTO Display Case was installed in the school's entrance outside the main office over the winter break and will include information and highlights about the PTO and PTO events.

### **Outdoor World of Learning (OWL)**

Ms. Costa provided information about Outdoor World of Learning (OWL), a science program currently at High Plain, which might also be launched at Bancroft. The outdoor science classes are held 3-4 times a year and are approximately an hour long. It's a volunteer-driven program; volunteers include parents and family members. Vicky Davis, a Bancroft parent, attended a volunteer training class. The training is very comprehensive. Ms. Costa explained the school needs to decide which grades to include at first and will start with two science units. In order to find out how many parents (potential volunteers) are interested, her next step is to write a specific description including how much volunteer time is required. There might be an information night to generate interest and a poll to find out how many are interested. The cost is \$1,700 for 3-4 units and \$2,300 to include all grades K-5. The current cultural enrichment programs will be evaluated to determine if OWL should replace an existing program or can be added with no change to the budget.

Ms. Costa also mentioned the lower than average **number of volunteers** at Bancroft. Some possible reasons were discussed. OWL might promote more volunteering.

### **Volunteering**

Following the OWL discussion, Sara asked if the PTO can centralize volunteer opportunities at school and in classrooms so parents can find them easily. Ms. Costa will poll teachers to see if they need and would like help.

### **Bancroft Gift Drive**

Sara gave a quick update on the Bancroft Gift Drive held during December. Gifts were collected "for Andover children whose families may (have) need(ed) some extra help with the holidays". The gifts were delivered at a Bancroft Community sponsored holiday party for Memorial Circle residents.

### **Lazarus House Drive**

During the Lazarus House presentation at the November 13, 2017 PTO meeting, Ms. Costa asked the representatives for a list of what they need most so she could share it with Bancroft families; the reps sent an email outlining their wishes. Amy Hamilton announced there will be one or two donation drives based on these suggestions. She said they'd like to make it relatively easy for the best response and success. Ms. Costa recommended they check with Mrs. Mallon and Mrs. Little because they also hold a drive and something might be planned already. She would like to limit it to one drive/cause at a time so students and families can stay focused. A parent asked if there is a way to involve students. Ms. Costa said the student council is already involved. Amy Hamilton suggested asking students to make cards for community members (for example, nursing home residents) during school hours in **February**, which is **Kindness Month** at Bancroft. Ms. Costa said they did this last year and they plan to do it again. She also asked if anyone has service project ideas for students and to email them to her. They might be able to incorporate them next month.

### School Calendar/Snow Days/Important Election Dates

Shannon Scully, School Committee Representative, gave an overview of the upcoming town and state elections, voting information, and encouraged attendance at the Annual Town Meeting in April. Article 4, the approval of the school operating budget, will be voted on the first night, Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. She also explained the school calendar and snow day policy. The current approved calendar requires 180 school days between September 1 and June 30. In prior years, the start date was before September 1. Also, 185 available school days are required by law: 180 school days and 5 snow/emergency days. Since all 5 snow days have been used already this year, the last day of school is June 27. For each additional snow day, the calendar will change: 1 snow day, the last day will be 6/28; 2 snow days, Good Friday will be a school day; 3 snow days, last day 6/29; and 4 snow days, school on a Saturday (date TBD). Shannon provided a comprehensive handout answering Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). It's a complicated and sensitive issue and there is wide recognition there is a problem with the current calendar. It's also on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting this week. A parent asked how to get involved and opt for moving the start date; Shannon suggested providing feedback to the Andover Educator Association (AEA). The FAQ handout will be posted on the PTO website.

Meeting adjourned around 9pm.

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### Bancroft PTO Board Votes

*2017-2018 School Year*

**September 25, 2017: Amy Hamilton, Communications Committee Member, asked** whether or not the PTO Express Weekly Updates should include advertisements from religious organizations.

*Amy Hamilton emailed the Board to vote; 10 board members voted "no".*

**September 27, 2017: Sara Wells, on behalf of 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, requested** funds for bandanas and face paint to do something special for the class since Outdoor Ed was cancelled (\$160).

*Sara Wells emailed the Board to vote; 11 board members voted "yes".*

**September 27, 2017: Sara Wells, on behalf of 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, also requested** funds for popsicles for the class since Outdoor Ed was cancelled (\$100).

*Sara Wells emailed the Board to vote; 6 board members voted "yes".*

**January 2, 2018: Amy Hamilton, Bingo Night Committee Member, requested** funds for a custodial staff at the event, a food services staff, supplies, and prizes in case they're unable to collect enough donations from local businesses (\$700).

*Amy Hamilton emailed the Board to vote; 10 board members voted "yes".*