

The PTO meeting was held in the library at Bancroft after the K-2 Open House

The group went around and introduced ourselves

From the school, Frank McCall, 5th grade teacher and PTO liaison was there. Also in attendance was Principal Beth Leavitt.

Principal Leavitt gave the following updates:

- Twitter updates happen a few times a week on the Bancroft account
- Gaga pit update -
 - Grades 2-5 during school hours
 - Kids are excited and following the rules - IAs are monitoring
- Moved the accessible swings closer and putting down a mat to make it easier to get to.
- Dismissal changes implemented today - K-3 go into gym, 4-5 go straight outside
- No more early 13 parent pick-up - all of parent pick-up goes outside at once
- The school is short lunch monitors - it's a paid position 11:15-1:45 and breakfast
 - Get to see kids and interact
 - We were cut by 5 IAs
- Beth was polling the group if she should do a monthly coffee or office hours zoom link?
 - She could do a survey to get a sense from the entire community
 - Several people thought Zoom was better
 - Suggestion from a participant to survey the community on certain topics they would want to know about or discuss
 - Suggestion to create an online suggestion box that could help understand topics
 - **Suggested that Stephanie could help with the online suggestion box**

Financial Discussion:

- Gaga pit was a big purchase for the PTO - we don't budget for big ticket items for that.
- Bancroft bucks is our largest fundraiser
- 90% participation rate in total kids
- PTO dollars go to field trips
- PTO purchase all the supplies for the teacher closet on behalf of the families
- Surplus has happened because field trips haven't happened
- Another big expense is on Cultural Arts
- If there is something that we could use, let us know.
- Beth thinks a sound-system in the cafeteria. Frank will also poll the teachers to see if there are ideas.

Beth has a wishlist of items from teachers

- She will ask the PTO first to see if we can assist

- Beth will send the request in an email

Bancroft Bucks are due 9/30

- We have 11% participation so far

Caity passed around the budget

Teacher/Grade Level Funds:

- Each grade/team has their own funds
- Only about 50% of those funds were used
- Teachers are asked to put in their supply order in the spring
- In the fall, they are figuring out what they don't have
- One idea: during the math trainings, they used the dry erase markers with the erasers on top and they would like those for each classroom.
- Sara asked if it would be helpful if we drafted an email to teachers to let them know about the funds.
- Frank thinks this is a process issue that we need to rethink. How does the school rethink the budget process? There is a spring process but no fall process.
- It's filling out a form and attaching a receipt. What if it was an online form? It could automatically go to Beth for approval.
- Could you have a shorter process where they include a link to what they want and PTO buys it?
- Monthly email to the teachers or staff meetings or Beth meetings to remind them.
- Could add it into the teacher emails from PTO. Include how much they have left in the budget.

Classroom parents

- Amy is going to be a liaison to help room parents. They are setting up a meeting to find out more about it.
- Funds get spent in many ways - including classroom parties
- There are head room parents to be the liaison with the teacher and help get everyone together.

Sara makes a motion to approve the budget and it was seconded and approved by the participants.

It was mentioned that Stephanie was working on putting the calendar online and link to download

Nature's Classroom:

- 9/29-9/30 offsite (Like Harold Parker) - trying to see if there might be a better time of year. Teachers like the fall because it builds comradery
- It's a district thing that Andover is not doing sleep away

- Question was asked who was deciding. Answer unknown but likely the School Committee.
- Used to be 3 nights then 2
- Trying to incorporate some of the sleep away pieces into the offsite
- Is it an equality thing? Staff would try and overcome any issues
- EEE was the last issue - they couldn't do a night walk
- Middle school and high school have sleep away trips

Field Trips

- Bancroft staff is on board with field trips, etc.
- Most field trips are in the spring

Events

RJ spoke about the Halloween Festival - Sunday 10/23 5-7pm

- Sign up Genius will go out this week or next
- Could use help pre-planning and on site - NEED VOLUNTEERS
- Event will be outside
- Silent Auction is part of it - need items - you can bid online
- No rain date right now
- Always scholarships available so that everyone can go

Christina spoke about the Learning Labs

- 2x per year
- Before and after school activities
- Start the last week of October
- The teacher sets their own price
- Scholarships available for students who want to participate
- Two IA's help with the process
- Beth has met with the IAs to see the process

PTO meets every other month - meetings are listed in the calendar

Meetings will all be in person this year