BSI PTO General Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2016

- The building wide PTO was called to order by the Principal Donna Taylor at 8:00AM. Thank you to Nick Kremer for capturing the video and the minutes for the building wide PTO presentation.[Watch Video]:
  - Discussion about safety: Greenfield had only heard from the grumpy drivers who are annoyed by the 25 mile an hour speed limit, but we have the power to bring up our concerns to their attention. They need to hear from lots of us to make a change. So far they've changed the pedestrian lead interval which is basically a signal change (timing) that allows people to cross before letting the cars turn.
  - There were 8 deaths right around our school just within last year.
  - We need to reinforce texting and walking education among the students.
  - If they get 100 requests from the same corner, it is actually a lot better than if they get one or two.
  - Stem lab: Campus wide project to have a stem lab on the roof of the building. School Construction Authority, NY sun roof and other agencies are involved.
  - So far we have $750k in the bank but it's a $3.3M project so we need a lot more.
  - School Construction Authority does not move with the job unless it's fully funded. But they agreed to move with the design phase and that's important because it takes about a half of year. Donna feels that the lab “IS GOING TO HAPPEN” so she doesn't want to wait around until the work starts.
  - It will not be just another room for the three schools but also a teaching experience that will benefit many other schools in New York city.
  - Kids from all over the city will come here. It's actually really good for the city. The Chancellor, Carmen Fariña is behind this. But it takes a village to get it done.
  - We have a postcard campaign for the City Council people, several parent volunteers were collecting signatures right outside of the Auditorium, and we're mailing these cards. We can help other schools in the building run the same campaigns with the post cards.
○ If everything goes smoothly it will take about two years to complete.
○ Once we hit $1M mark, the other millions will be a lot easier to get. Donna says that "money always come". We have executive summaries for different kinds of sponsors.
○ We will have a really large impact and it won’t just be for the BSI students.
○ Many of our teachers presented at a number of shared conferences and lots of the good work we do is getting shared, so the word goes out and people want to support us.
○ Question: are we allowed to donate to the STEM lab?

The PTO would like to bifurcate the funding and would rather keep these initiatives separate.

- The General PTO meeting was called to order by the PTO President David Orsolino at 8:30 AM. There were 58 members in attendance. The minutes for the March 2016 meeting were read by Cathy Joseph and unanimously approved by the attending parents.

- President's report was presented by David Orsolino:
  ○ The board elections season is open. Anyone who wants to join the Executive Board meeting is welcome to attend. The schedule is published on the website.

- EVP report was presented by David Orsolino in the absence of Celeste Ivers:
  ○ Thank you for last week's movie night.
  ○ The upcoming Middle School movie night will be held on Friday, May 6th - the chosen movie will be The Groundhog’s Day.
  ○ Macia Osgood said that the Toy Drive went really well. There were a lot of toys donated. We’ll need help to sort through them. Hoping to get some upper grade students to spend an hour or two to help. After they are sort in boxes, we’ll drive them to the donation center.

- Treasurer's report was presented by Mark Caserta:
  ○ $350+K in the bank.
  ○ We have 2 months to left to try to meet the budget.
  ○ Transferred $200K from Chase to Investor Bank. Small amount left in Chase until Paypal’s transfer to Investor Bank is complete.

- Fundraising report was presented by Jim Buksikares:
  ○ Gala on May 13 at Roulette. Tickets are $65 before it increases on May 6th.
  ○ Need help to purchase ads and soliciting donations for the auction.
  ○ We need many volunteers for several hour-long shifts during the Gala.
○ Volunteer signup sheet will be sent out in the coming week.

● PACE report was presented by Willow Lawson:
  ○ Since the G&T scores came out, PACE will have a meeting on Wednesday at PS320 from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

● SLT report was presented by Tricia Ragone:
  ○ Most of the discussions were centered around the change item from TA to professional staff.

● Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM