BSI PTO General Meeting Minutes for November 23, 2015

- The meeting was called to order by the PTO President David Orsolino at 6:35 PM. There were 22 members in attendance. The Recording secretary James Ng read the minutes for the October 2015 meeting and it was unanimously approved by the attending parents.

- Principal’s report presented by Donna Taylor:
  
  watch the video here: https://youtu.be/-jtdEjB040s
  
  ○ Spanish is new this year. We’re in the process to make it more structured.
  ○ School loop is where we can find the homework assignments and grades. 6th & 7th are working well with it. 4th & 5th is up but the grades are being entered.

- President's report was presented by David Orsolino:
  
  ○ Final payment was made towards the soundboard upgrade.

- Treasurer's report presented by Mark Caserta:
  
  ○ We’ve raised $73K by the end of October.
  ○ There is currently about $200K in the bank
  ○ We’re slightly behind last year’s effort.
  ○ Discussion on changing bank account followed.
    ■ We’ve been using Chase for a while but they’ve not helped us and is not very supportive.
    ■ TD bank has many locations and potential could sponsor our event for $5K.
    ■ Investor bank caters to non-profits. They offer us an interest that is 90 basis points. They also offer to bring volunteer to help with our event that they sponsors. Their “Care to Share” program would give us up to 25 basis points on money in accounts hold by BSI related person. They would also support with grants.
    ■ A vote for switching the bank account from Chase to Investor Bank was proposed and unanimously approved.
- Another vote to make the update to correct the clerical budget error of roughly $2000 was proposed and also unanimously approved.

- Fundraising report was presented by Jim Butsikares:
  - Barnes and Nobles fundraising event was a success with many volunteers. Many teacher did the read alouds. We’re hoping that it will raise $2-3K. We need to spread the word that parents and anyone else should continue to shop online in till 11/21.
  - DA is ongoing. There will be more reminders coming.
  - Amazon shopping email is coming to remind us that it has bring in $8-10K so far in 2015.
  - Camp auction is anticipated in January.
  - BSI chess tournament budget was presented. Date of this event will be announced separately, possibly in January. The Budget was approved unanimously by attending members.

- EVP report was presented by David Orsolino in absence of Celeste Ivers:
  - The Give Back committee will be holding a Coat Drive during the week of 11/30.

- PACE report:
  - No updates.

- SLT report presented by Donald Salvato:
  - Issues and communication were discussed.
  - Parent asked, if it will add members to balance the distribution of parents representing lower and upper grades? No, currently full at this time and it happens to be balanced naturally.
  - All classes for the middle school are classified as honor classes which will make a big difference during the High School application process.
  - There won’t be lockers because it would violate the fire code. Currently classes use bins in each classroom to store the personal items.

- Cathy said that the executive board will have to look into the issue of revising the by law to make sure there is an even distribution of the middle and elementary school parents on the SLT in the future years.

- Bus updates - Cathy said that Marty Golden has contacted Alexander’s office to add BSI to bus list for 7th & 8th grades.

- Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm