BSI PTO Meeting minutes

June 24th, 2014

The meeting was called to order by BSI PTO co-president at 6:40. There were 42 parents in attendance. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and unanimously approved.

Principal’s Report

- This was the last meeting with Nicole Nelson.
- Donna announced teacher lineup for the next year:
  - Kindergarten: Nelsa Boyer-Maddison + Rachel Michael from PS10 (math specialist)
  - 1st grade: Deborah Griner + Sevgi Unay.
  - 2nd Bonnie Durgin (spare time is working on the school building license) will be shadowing Donna. Melissa Markinson will be joining in the second grade.
  - 3rd Grade: Audrey Elias and John O'Hickey.
  - 4th grade: Siobhan Cintula (will be out on maternity until November) and Christy Stewart and Cardone as the TA.
  - 5th grade: A new person will join who is from a citywide school, coming in for humanities, Toi Ferguson (who will also remain in Tribes) and Meredith Jose from the Bronx, who will be the math teacher
  - 6th Grade math - Melissa Singer, humanities - Stephanie Parsons
  - 6th grade - two cohorts of 32 that will break into 3+3 sub groups 601a, 601b, etc. for advisories. This smaller setting should help advisors to know the kids better, but the kids will still be with the larger cohorts for other classes.
  - 6th grade advisors: ms. Valery (just hired), Sharon Sykes, Stephanie Parsons, Melissa Singer, Sarah Inbar and Kira Wolfe. They will be visiting high schools and meeting other teachers and having conversations to learn if there is a fit for our kids.
  - Kyra Wolfe will be in a dual role overseeing media literal efforts and will be the PE teacher and will also be in the library.
  - Mr. Rory will be a PE teacher for some other classes. He will be a resident substitute teacher in addition to the gym duties.
  - Sarah Inbar is stepping out of a classroom and will take on a role to help build curriculum for grades 3 through 5.
  - Anna Moshura is stepping out of the classroom to split Nicole’s role with Sarah. She will be responsible for curriculum in grades K-2.
  - Sydra Mallery and Sharon Sites - two science teachers for next year.
  - Ms. Nanna will be back as the art teacher.
  - Another math specialist to help with the lower grades: Marci from PS261 will come in 3 days a week to work on math.
o We will have a TA in every single classroom K-6. Many of them coming back again for consecutive years and most of them are certified teachers. The 6th grade will also be with someone who the students know. TAs are not DOE employees and will get paid only 15k / year.

o The school does not have the money to hire a foreign language teacher at this time, however if the funding situation improves Donna will reconsider this decision in the future.

o Most likely Arts will remain the same, perhaps there will be less Chess

o Mr. W and Ms. Dianne will still be here.

o K + 1st grade are going to do Dance.

o 6th graders will be able to go for lunch outside of the building next year, perhaps not right away but in January. Will be teaching the students that with rights they also have responsibilities.

o Afterschool - Wingspan will be offering some special activities for 6 graders. But they will also have Champs - DOE pays for the Champs teacher.

o Family engagement - next year will be a new initiative the idea is to share more details about the curriculum in a more dynamic way.

o Donna says that she is tempted to offer parent tribes training to help some parents to "conduct themselves". She has an inspirational speech about how we want to spin our energy into something that will be beautiful and powerful and lets agree not to traffic in anything that is not proactive. She hopes that we will be able to be more constructive and work together to support and extend the school's philosophy and build a community of parents who support each other.

o Donna always answers her emails and if in a rare case she forgets to do so for any reason, she is asking to please remind her about it.

Fundraising report

- Total in the bank around $465k
- Handed out the financials as of the end of May - $345k
- Motion was made to transfer $420,000 to school.
  - The parents voted and unanimously approved.

Fundraising report

- Someone's friend is donating $3000 for the new families.
- 200 tickets have been sold to the Cyclones

President's report

- Next school year the Exec board meeting will be on sep 9th. Parents are welcome to join as observers. First general meeting will be held on September 17th, 2014
- Incoming board’s term starts on July 1. The first board meeting is on July 16

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.