Minutes - BSI PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, June 24th 2015

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Samantha Delman-Caserta at 6:40 PM. There were 29 members in attendance.

Principal's Report - Donna Taylor
Watch the video here: <link to be inserted>.

- Zero period was a new thing that we heard from Donna today. This will be for the upper grade kids that might arrive at school earlier than normal since they will be traveling via mass transit. It will allow them to go to the library and get some work done before classes start.
- PLEASE INSERT ANYTHING ELSE I MISSED.
- Donna distributed the K-7 breakdown for PTO fundraising and discussed the rationale behind choosing each of the enrichments.
- The 4th and 5th grades will travel as a class and will have a homeroom teacher. They will not have small group advisory.
- There will be small group advisories in 6-8 grades. This is very important in supporting the kids academically but also with their social-emotional needs. There are 9 teachers (advisors) in the 6th grade, 3 per each cohort. Keeping the advisory groups small is very important to do this effectively. It helps the kids who are shy to have their voice heard, and they are willing to do this more freely in a small group and then develop this capability to be able to speak in a town hall in front of the entire grade, and sometimes even speak in front of the parents.
- On the last day of school, this Friday parents will electronically receive the report card and their child’s cohort assignment for next year. Later in the summer they will receive the e-mail with advisory assignment.
- Next year there will be a free after school program, offering 3 classes for 6th and 7th grades up to 45 kids a day. More information will be available later in the summer.

The May 2015 minutes were read by the Co-Secretary Nick Kremer and were approved unanimously by the membership.

Fundraising report.
Jim Butsikaris presented the fundraising event budgets to the membership.

- Direct Appeal budget was presented and approved. Historically we have not been at 95% of participation, but we need to use that projection in order to match the budget Donna has provided. The budgeted number includes the matching funds. This budget was voted for and approved unanimously.
- The Gala and Auction budget was presented. This year’s gala was a success. Next year we are factoring in the past performance into our anticipated net profit. The budget was approved unanimously.
- The Fall Harvest budget details were discussed. Saturday October 17 was discussed as a possible date for the event. This budget was approved unanimously.
- The Ice Skating budget was presented by Celeste Ivers. We anticipate 550 families to attend this event and plan to keep the same admission ticket prices assuming that the costs will remain similar. Suggested date is during the first week of March but it won’t be confirmed until this fall. A suggestion was made to for the ice
skating to happen on a weekend, which Lakeside cannot accommodate this year. The PTO will revisit this issue in the fall to determine what would be best for families. This budget was approved unanimously.

- **The Barnes & Noble** event budget was discussed and approved unanimously. There will be one B&N fundraiser next year. It will be in the fall.
- **The BSI Gear** budget was presented. We are looking to have it closer to the holiday season the next year. A parent suggested to consider the design with the children's names on the back of the apparel. Also smaller sizes were requested to allow parents outfitting the younger siblings with the BSI gear. This budget was approved unanimously.
- Inessa and Vladimir will be looking to bring in a chess fundraiser next year. We will be presenting the budget at the September meeting.

**Presidents Report**

Samantha Delman-Caserta presented the annual **PTO budget** to the membership.

- **2015-16 budget** to forward fund the 2016-17 school year as discussed in detail. Each of the budget line items was discussed in detail, explained what it means.
- Copy machine renewal is currently in progress. We are looking at various options with replacing the machine including unlimited toner and the number of copies as well as exploring other potential vendors.
- The PTO room will be moving to a new location next year.
- We will look into negotiating the fees that we currently pay for PayPal, squareup and other services next year.
- If we don't meet the budget next year, it will impact Donna's decision on the specialty teachers.
- In 2017 we will have the first graduating class. Do we know if we will be doing anything as a PTO? Should discuss and create a budget line for graduation support from that year and on.
- A motion to vote on this budget was passed. 28 parents were in favor to approve, one was against, and no abstentions.

We will be proposing to turn over $500,000 to BSI this year and are very proud of this achievement. All parents who participated in committees, teams and various task forces and pitching in any way they can to help the community and pair children. Celeste thanked Samantha for the great service she has done and was the heart of the PTO for many years.

**The nominating committee.**

- Announced and welcomed the new board members and thanked the current members.
- The Co-President and EVP as well as several other parents also personally thanked the board members who are leaving and welcomed the board members who will be assuming new positions.

**Treasurers report.**

- The report was distributed and presented by Samantha Delman Caserta.
- The numbers as of the end of May as well as the most recent budget actual and expense numbers were presented.

We would like to turn over $500,000 to BSI
  - $25,000 would go into the BSI school fund account - this is what Donna pays for supplies, and for the contractors.
  - The rest of the money, $475,000 would go to the DOE Galaxy fund and will eventually be used by the school.
- All parents voted unanimously to transfer $500,000 to the school.
- There was a Proposal from parents to vote on the parent priorities for possible suggestion to Donna on how the funding will be used. We fully understand that Donna is not obligated to act on these priorities but it would be nice to have the voice of all parents heard. A discussion followed.
A question from the audience: once the funds are transferred to the school, if there is more money remaining at the bank, how will that money be utilized. Answer: This money will be carried forward to the next fundraising year, however the PTO must always have a certain amount of money in the bank for its operational expenses.

A question was raised regarding the Mark Twain school being able get public yellow busses for the 7th and 8th graders. We should find out how they were able to do that and ask various ways to persuade DOE to make the same exception for BSI.

SLT
The majority of the SLT meeting was a discussion regarding the next year’s educational plan and enrichments distribution that was presented by Donna earlier.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.