Feb 9th 2018 PTO General meeting, 8am
Draft minutes
75+ parents in attendance

Carlie Steen, co-president: remember that what you see in the classrooms is paid for by the PTO. We will be losing some state funding because the bubble class will be graduating. Fundraising is in high gear.

Eric Havlik: Going to take a few minutes to explain where PTO funds have been spent this year. I also have some new asks for the final part of this school year.

Being principal means also being an accountant. I want to be as transparent as possible about where money is spent.

Outward Bound: organization that offers curriculum support for advisories. Outdoor experiences for kids. Outward Bound will begin working with BSI once per month.

Grade meetings have begun: 8th grade has met. Next week is 7th grade.

Teachers had a professional development workshop that received high marks. Child Mind Institute: workshop with teachers about twice exceptional students. Next year, hopes to have a regular partnership with a consultant.

3Rs: K-8 health curriculum. Co-author of curriculum will be working with the school to pilot some projects at BSI. Focuses on a range of age-appropriate health and sex education.

Workshops on bullying in middle school and healthy relationships are in the works.

Lunch clubs have started. The topics were generated by students and teachers:
- Computer programming
- Beads, Beads, Beads
- Intramural basketball
- Art recess
- Board Games
- Performing Arts
- Sports Exploration
- Intramural indoor soccer
- Legos
- Chess
- Role Playing
- Role playing and skits in Spanish
- Yearbook
- Student Gov
PTO Budget Update
Not spending as much money on TAs as anticipated.

Additional spending items:

BioBus (K-2) $1,347. March 1st is proposed date.
Child’s Play NY (4th): Performance of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. 4 50-minute classroom visits with experiential, hands-on curriculum connecting performance to social emotional learning through theater. $
Together in Dance: 5th grade. 8-week redisency. Performance that integrates with curriculum on immigration. Culminates in performance for parents. $4480

$5,000 Discretionary funding: Field Trip scholarships, summer teacher PD

Lunch Club supplies: legos, sports equipment, performing arts supplies. Lego project requires.

Parent Q: No 3rd grade on list for additional speanding
Havlik A: In the works at PTO board meeting.

Parent Q: performances in 5th grade?
Havlik A: Yes for 5th grade, not for 4th. Howeve, we could invite 5th and 4th grade to the final performance so 4th graders can see what is in their future as 5th graders.

Q: Not all teachers using school loop.
A: It’s come to my attention and we’re working on making it more even across classes.

Ms Ferguson, dean of students, talks about her role in the school:

Dean of Students: the role is to think about the culture of the school. We want that to be a culture of respect.

Systems that are already in place: Community agreements. Expectations are taught starting in kindergarten.

How do we keep those values alive in the upper grades? Through Responsive Classroom (a technique for managing different behaviors in class), Advisory, Community Building Period, Anti-Bullying Curriculum Integration.

Older grades: 4-5 is Community building period.
6-8th has advisory. 13-15 students meet 2x per week. Time to think about social issues they are facing, academic challenges.
Anti-bullying curriculum comes from Committee for Children in Seattle. Identifying bullying, how to be an upstander.

School-wide initiatives: No Place for Hate, Just Say Hi, Respect for All (week-long series of events—readings and activities on tolerance and respect), Buddy Classes (goal is for older students to look out for younger kids), School Loop Communication (teachers can share information about students who may be facing challenges)

New Initiatives:

Anonymous Reporting Box/App
Teachers PD: Tattling vs Reporting
Older Students Present Anti-Bullying to Younger Students

Parent Q: Breakdown in discipline in 4th grade. Parents are looking for a rapid response.  
A: Have heard about incidents before break and we are working to remedy.

Parent Q: Is there a standard for use of school loop? Parents want to know what to expect from teachers. Ranges widely.  
A: We are looking at that now.

Motion to approve additional spending for enrichments. No nos or abstentions.

Treasurer: Mikael
Summary slide:
Ahead of last year by $20k. But goals are higher this year.
Crackdown on Amazon affiliate program means that parents need to go to BSIPTO.org and click the Amazon link for the school to reap the benefit of the referral program.
Need accountants and to round out our audit committee. Need one more person for the audit committee. Please email the PTO to volunteer.

Change in budget approved. No abstentions or nos.

Mai: Middle school AP or debate coach only possible if we fundraise. If we want those things, the DOE is not going to give us that money.

Camp auction: need parents to send emails. Feb 24th deadline of donations. Please help us solicit donations!

June 9th auction: Calling all Dancing Queens and Soul Train riders! It’s going to be a great party.
Need designers and folks who can do ad sales for the gala program. It can be a big money-maker for the school if we work together.

SLT report:
Teachers want to lower class size.
Staff development: need help to support students. Great review: Child Mind Institute.
Talked about portfolio development for high schools and interviews.

Adjourned 9:25am.