BSI PTO General Meeting, Thursday, 3/22, 6:30pm

**Mr. Havlik’s briefing:**
Current work: Outward Bound, parent grade meetings, 3Rs
--Outward Bound will be coordinating a program for upper grades
--parent meetings have been hugely successful
--3Rs is the health curriculum that we’ll be piloting in the spring. Currently planning with Elizabeth Schroeder, co-author.

**Upcoming Middle school workshops**
--Hands are for holding, April 30th. Grades 6-8
--Day One Workshop. April 26th. Grades 7 and 8.
--PFLAG: March 27th. Grade 7 and 8.

**Update on expanded enrichments:**
--Biobus was here in grades K-2. Very cutting edge technology. Kids loved it.
Child’s Play performed Midsummer Night’s Dream for 4th grade. Coming back to talk with 4th graders about social emotional learning. The kids are very excited to have real actors in their classrooms.
Together in Dance: 5th grade. Had planning meeting. Linked to immigration curriculum. 8 week residency that culminates in a show that they put on.
Teacher professional development over the summer: some teachers will undergo Orton-Gillingham training.

Proposed enrichment for 3rd grade:
Capoeira, $2080. Blends martial arts, dance, music, Portuguese language.

Mr Havlik has concerns about staffing for next year. The school is currently staffed very cheaply and creatively with some part-time teachers (lower grade science and Spanish) and a substitute for media literacy. We would like to hire full-time teachers for some of these subjects, which is more expensive. We would also like to hire a middle school assistant principal.

**How current budget looks: 2017-18**
*562 students. Average teacher salary is $84k. The is the amount the DOE pays per full time teacher. [PTO clarification: The DOE gives BSI money based on the number of enrolled students, roughly $4k per student. The administration divides the money to cover everything they want to pay for. Money isn’t earmarked for particular teachers. As teachers stay in the system longer, their salaries rise and they take up a larger portion of the DOE budget. However, the DOE does not pay extra for more experienced teachers; the budget does not increase because a teacher is at the top of the pay scale. So every year that the school hires and retain teachers with experience, the school is put at a budgetary disadvantage.]
*Five full-time cluster teachers: dance, art, PE, music, science
*Part Time/Sub Cluster Teachers:
*Media literacy (full time substitute);
*Chess k-5, 2 days per week
*Science (part time substitute)
*Spanish (part time substitute)

How funding looks for 2018-19:
*534 students, down from 562 this year. [PTO clarification: Next year, all grades will have two classes--this year’s 8th grade has three classes. Because the DOE calculates budgets based on number of students, this means BSI receives about $120k less from DOE next year.]
Average teacher salary is TBD. DOE doesn’t release these figures until June. School anticipate similar budget numbers as last year--perhaps a small increase--but won’t know till the end of the school year.
*Eight full-time cluster teachers next year. This is what we need to support advisory and lunch clubs (having a Spanish instructor gave other teachers time to put lunch clubs in their schedule.)

Mr. Havlik’s Concerns about 2018-19:
*120k from fewer students.
*Cost of average teacher salary. Hoping there will be an increase from the DOE.
*Increase in cost of paying full-time teachers vs substitute teachers/part time teachers. This means paying more for experienced teachers who we want to retain.

Mr Havlik would like to have PTO pay for some cluster teachers. The PTO isn’t allowed to pay for core subjects teachers, such as classroom teachers or science teachers, but can pay for cluster teachers, who teach across the grades. Mr. Havlik would like the PTO to pay for Art and Dance (not science, which is in the slide) teachers. About $170k (TBD when 2018-19 average teacher salary is calculated).

Question: Does the PTO need to make the goal of $577k in order to make the budget work?
Answer: If it’s the same PTO money as this year, there will have to be trade offs. May have to cut back on some enrichments or TAs if we don’t reach our goals. It’s not set in stone, but it’s a concern.

Question: Can we afford band?
Answer: That could be a trade off. We would need a music teacher to run it. Before it was outsourced, but there needs to be a staff member who runs it. It’s definitely on my mind and I would love for BSI to do it.

Question: Is such a thing as a person who can do science/chess or a combination of other subjects?
Answer: It’s possible. In order to keep what we have and keep lunch clubs, we need to stay at the same level of staffing. This is just the plan for maintaining.

It doesn’t help us to lose the students. The alternative is bringing up class size even further. But I think it’s going to be fine. We’re going to work it out.

Parent question on capoeira: Why spend this money when there’s a deficit on the financial report? What does the treasurer recommend?

Answer (from multiple parents): An enrichment for 3rd grade was discussed at previous meetings. Also money has already been raised for this school year and parents are likely to see it benefit their children this year.

Treasurer’s report, Mikael Sheikh:

Could have two chess events next year because it was popular and it makes money ($3628 net) Camp auction made $16,450, possibly a bit more with “clean-up” auction. Upcoming events: Movie nights, Cyclones game, BSI Gala on June 9th.

We are doing OK. However, we still have a long way to get to our goal of $577k. We need at least another $213k in Direct Appeal and we need to see that money come in soon.

[multiple slides showing history of income sources for PTO]

We hope the BSI Gala brings in $115k.

Fundraising report, Mai Hoang:

2014-15 brought in nearly $600k. We hope to repeat and we think we can do it.

Mai: Saturday Night Fever is the theme of the gala. June 9th.

Program can make $30k if we have parents help sell ads (last year was $17k). Need everyone to solicit ads from your favorite mechanic, your dentist, your favorite dinner place.

Online auction will have a new teacher experiences section (can’t fit all teachers in the live auction). We have U2 tickets, a Galapagos trip for 2! Mr Havlik will be donating a fishing trip.

One amazing parent, Stacy Cole has gotten a lot of great things by doing a lot of emailing.

There’s nothing more important than a great science teacher. The enrichments are icing on the cake. We are talking about the basics now. Mr. Havlik has sounded the alarm and we need to step up.
Even 8th grade that doesn’t need to give, has given. The class that gets to 100% participation first will have an ice cream party.

Question: What should parents be doing now to help?
--For the Gala: We need help setting up. Need parents to set up at noon on the day of.
--Solicit for the online auction
--Sell ads. If every class could sell one or two ads, we would be in really good shape.

Maura Minsky, Executive VP of PTO:
Passing around gala committee sheets for gala volunteers. If you have a special talent, please offer that up as an auction item.

Vlad is our volunteer of the month. He’s been so instrumental in building the chess program. I first met him after winning his expertise as an auction item!

Co-VPs of Parent Involvement, Annie Thoms and Shana Norberg: will be having some parent meet-ups. Sip and science.

Please amplify what we heard from Mr. Havlik.

13 meeting attendees, 9 board members.

Co-Presidents, Claire Lin and Carlie Steen:
Can’t have a binding vote to approve capoeira because we don’t have quorum. But can get a sense of how group feels. Who supports capoeira? [Unanimous support.]

We can’t wait till June to sound the alarm for the money we need. So we are telling you now. Please tell your friends.

How can we get more people to meetings?
--have a conference call that families could call into? Make it so parents can just listen in.
--child care? Could we ask a TA to watch kids?

8:08pm adjourned.