BSI PTO General Meeting. Thursday 4/19/18, 6:30pm

Co Presidents (Claire and Carlie):
Vote passed to waive the reading of the March minutes and then minutes approved by show of hands.

Mr Havlik’s briefing:
Current Work:
- Open Houses for new families well attended. He made sure to express to entering families the idea and philosophy of BSI. He is here because he is inspired by progressive mindset, project based learning, individualized instruction, whole child philosophy, importance of social emotional learning.
- BEAM starting soon 1st and 2nd grade. Teachers go to workshop to develop projects then BEAM comes into the classroom to implement plan
  - 1st grade: Ideal Communities -- focusing on kids’ home communities and their priorities
  - 2nd grade: likely Bridges -- Construction Kids will no longer be doing the Brooklyn Bridge project at BSI. They did not want to continue this project, and felt it was not valuable to the kids.
- Overnight Trips.
  - Boston trip sadly had to return early due to snow, but had a great time.
  - PEAK -- 6th grade just returned. Environmental center, pond studies, tree studies, smores. Positive community energy
- Student Government: has one goal this year, developing a BSI Talent Show
- 7th Grade Dance Committee: raising money for a dance for their grade

Spending Ask for this school year:
- Capoeira Program for 3rd grade, $2,080 -- 8 week residency. Teachers from third grade asked for a movement enrichment, teaches self discipline, boundaries, control, Portuguese language.

Plans for next year:
- Wants to focus on STEM. Not finalized but ideas include:
  - Consortium Research and Robotics @ Pratt -- middle school program. Visit robotics lab, educators come to school, 5 wk residency
  - Billion Oyster Project -- school adopts oyster bed. Starts it, measures and monitors
  - Continue and Expand Lunch Clubs -- continue current and expand to Coding, Robotics, Entrepreneurship

Health Sexuality Education:
- EH has been meeting with parents about the need for Comprehensive Health and Sexuality Education
Basing our curriculum on 3Rs. Good fit for BSI. Comprehensive, tackles challenges K-8, addresses bullying, relationships. Age appropriate. These issues have all been surfacing. Addressed this year by adding bullying curriculum but 3Rs will cover bullying as well as a wide range of other issues including puberty and sex ed.

Consultant developing our curriculum is co-author of 3Rs, Dr Elizabeth Schroeder.

Steps:
- Focus groups of teachers
- Focus groups of students
- Spring Piloting of topics that have been coming up and need to be addressed
- Professional Development
- Fall Launch
- Additional Fall development

EH hopes this will be a foundation for kids, help them understand what is going on in their bodies, not feel isolated, be comfortable and confident.

Sample lesson summaries:
- K: My Space, Your Space
- 2: Bullying is Never OK
- 4: Making Sense of Puberty
- 8: Healthy or Unhealthy Relationships

Buddy Connections
- 5th and 2nd grade continue buddy program

Q&A -- no questions

Vote on Spending for Capoeira: approved by show of hands

Fundraising, Mai Hoang:
- Funds we raise will help make STEM enrichments, Robotics, lunch clubs, art supplies possible for next year. Our money goes into a big pot and from there is used wisely to address needs of the school for our kids.
- Everything is related to the Direct Appeal. 75% of the PTO funds come from the DA. We ask for $1,500/child/year (like Anderson) but the goal is 100% participation so give any amount.
- Horse race: The winner of the ice cream party will be the first class to get to 100% participation before June 15. First grade is still in the lead.
- Next fundraiser is the GALA. Gala goal is 115K. Ad sales for gala program are crucial. Buy/sell ads for grads! May 25 is deadline. Mai has an archive of all photos since 2009 if you need one.
- Auction: great stuff! EH got a donation from restaurant Stone Park. Citi Bike, Cruise in Galapagos, teacher experiences.
- Put FUN in FUNdraising: June 9 -- book your sitter, light up floor, dancing, live auction, drinks, food, DJ. Need John Travolta look alikes (do you have a white suit?)
• Matching: We have matching donors for 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 grade. None for other grades.
• 500K is our fundraising goal. This is not aspirational. If we do not make that goal, there will be program cuts.

Committees, Maura Minsky:
Need Gala Volunteers to set up and sell ads etc

T Shirt Contest, Maura Minsky:
Ms Nana volunteered to make a curriculum and gather designs from middle school. 112 designs were submitted. Parents, kids and staff voted. The results were announced and certificates of achievement were received by the 20 students who made it to the semi-finalist round from the initial 112 submissions.

The winning design was created by 8th grader Michelle Zhang. Michelle will work with a professional graphic designer to hone her design into a format that can be uploaded onto a shirt for purchase.

Bylaws, Anna Len
PTO is required to update bylaws every 3 years and when Chancellor Regulations change. Most of the proposed changes are required by the Chancellor Regulations.

➔ Membership specifics defining who can be a member of PTO
➔ No voting by email or conference call
➔ Non parents can participate but cannot vote (Co-President’s Note: “Parent” is defined in A-660 and includes legal guardian)
➔ Cannot require that executive board positions be shared but can say they may be shared. Shared positions must run as a slate.
➔ Responsibilities of SLT are described
➔ Elections: must notify principal of Board election date by May 1
➔ Standing committees: Will remove specific committees from bylaws so that we are not required to fill them. Then committees will be created yearly ad hoc. Certain committees are required and will remain.
➔ Bylaws must be in office and at the PTO meetings

Changes will be available for review and will be voted on at next meeting

Treasurer’s Report, Mikael Sheikh
• Slow month. Slide showed summarizing income and expenses
• Our fundraising goal is $577,000. To date we have raised $261,000 ($216,000 from DA and corporate matching) and still need $194,000 to fund next school year.
• How did we get $577K as goal? Looked at last 5 years.
• So far we have been getting $2,880/month -- to reach our goal we would need to get $7,980/month till the end of this school year.
• Looked at history of fundraising over years at BSI. A parent noted that 2014-2015 was very high and we brainstormed possible reasons
• A parent suggested that we put names of contributors out on something. Had a giving tree in the past. Used family names or anon and did not matter how much you donated. Created positive peer pressure. Felt that discussions after that encouraged participation. However there was push back from some families and this was discontinued.

Nominating Committee, Misha Ratner:
• Looking for people interesting in running for next year’s PTO board. Need a slate by final meeting.
• Interested in learning more? Any interested parents are invited to come to Willow’s gathering with current board members Sunday May 20 from 2 to 4. Email execbd@bsipto.org for details (Note: at the meeting the date was announced as April 29 but has since been changed.).

Autism Awareness Month, Amy Kenny, BSI parent:
Presented for Autism Awareness Month. Her son, James, attends BSI and is Autistic. She showed us how to conceptualize Autism as a circle instead of a spectrum, with most severely impaired at the center and things like language, perception, sensory, motor skills, and executive function around the circumference, expressing a wide range of strengths and weaknesses. One in 68 kids are on the autism spectrum. Rates of bullying are higher for these kids. You might see kids at BSI stimming in class or wearing noise cancelling headphones, other behaviors. Hidden social curriculum becomes more complex as we age. Need acceptance not just awareness. It can be hard to discuss a diagnosis but if you and your kid are able to be open with discussing it can help. Continue to talk and support each other. Amy shared part of a paper that James wrote for class.

Toy Drive, Marcia Osgood
Running through April 23 and packing for pick up Thursday if your child is interested in helping pack.

SLT, Claire Lin
SLT meets to discuss school curriculum. The superintendent visited BSI this past Monday and was very supportive and happy with BSI. Supports progressive model and wants to expand in District
BSI wants to update their website. Send ideas
Working on an Education Plan
Teachers feel happy and well supported
Alums: key people for BSI. tell people about our school and keep in touch.

New Business: none
Q&A:

Discussed getting a fundraising VP from every grade

Gala/Auction for financial difficulties: will have lower priced teacher items, like signed books. Also will have a $20 raffle for lunch with principal to put this experience within reach. Gala is free to anyone if it’s a hardship to come. Just reach out to Mr Havlik, not a problem.

Echo meeting will be held Friday April 27 at 8am.