

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on March 2, 2011 at 1:35 pm at Conference Room 1, Bridge School, 55 Middleby Road, Lexington, MA.

PTA Executive Committee Members Present:

Rebecca Reynolds Moore (Co-President), Justine Wirtanen (Co-President), Tricia Weisberg (Treasurer), Suzanne Lau (Secretary), Victoria Campos, Laura Schroeder, Guorong Zhu and Cathy Smith.

PTA Executive Committee Members Absent:

Stephanie Mitzenmacher

PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome

Rebecca called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Rebecca acknowledged with appreciation the donation/gift of \$500 from the METCO Parent Group to the Bridge PTA.

2. Minutes and business conducted between EC meetings

The Minutes for the January 5, 2011 Bridge PTA Executive Committee Meeting were unanimously approved.

3. PTA Bylaw Amendments

The final version of the revised bylaws will be presented to the general membership for approval at a general membership meeting scheduled on March 9, in conjunction with the Parent Coffee Connection. The revised bylaws are posted online and hardcopies will be available. The topic of the Coffee will be

“Snooze or Lose” with staff speakers Carole Baumgart, Roberta Pelkey and Lucia Gates.

4. Treasurer’s Review

Tricia reviewed the year-to-date numbers for 2010-2011.

- Winter Ball was successfully raised over \$14K due to the hard work of a very active and creative organizing committee. Congratulations!
- Major remaining expenses for the year are Teachers Purse and Mini-grant requests are still pending and Staff appreciation \$1000.
- Scholarships – Families in need submit a form to the Town School Committee. The School then receives a list of approved families. The Principal then has to find the funds to provide scholarships for these families. These funds are usually provided by the PTA with the following exception: The Fifth Grade Committee asks their parents for specific donations for scholarships for the 5th Grade field trip.
- Town-wide all PTA talk on Internet Safety will be funded by all the Lexington PTA’s. A line item expense will be added to the budget to reflect the Bridge PTA contribution to the Speaker honorarium.
- Fourth Grade Map project – approved actual expense of \$72 (budgeted \$50), will update budget for next year.
- Wishing well had approximately \$6K in requests that were approved and funded with funds raised by the Winter Ball. Requestors will receive notification and generally will make the purchases themselves.

5. Technology at Bridge and ELMOs

- Bridge PTA received approval from the School Committee to donate technology to Bridge School up to a value of \$5500. Currently, each grade level has one ELMO projection system for their use (except Kindergarten).

- Principal Colella emphasized that the flexibility and usefulness of the ELMOs in the classrooms to project, demonstrate and magnify lessons in science, language (class editing), math etc. , make them a valuable addition to every classroom.
- Each system costs \$585 (ELMO unit) + \$747 (Projector) = \$1332 (Total per system). Carts are purchased separately and do not count towards the technology donation.
- MOTION to purchase 4 ELMO systems (estimated cost \$5328) and 4 carts for Bridge School, using the excess funds raised for the Wishing Well by the Winter Ball. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Upcoming Fundraising Events

- Wilson Farm Day, March 24

7. Playground Committee

Playground Committee will use funds already available from previous years to perform updates on the playground.

8. SPARC/Enrollment Update

- Bridge has 534 students as of 3/2/ 2011
- There are 108 5th graders. Principal Colella is adding academic aides to the classrooms with 27 students. The situation is being monitored carefully.

9. Upcoming Calendar/Events

- SRTS walking event today March 2 Parent Coffee Connection and general membership meeting to vote on revised bylaws, March 9, 8:45 am, Topic “Snooze or Lose”.

- Kindergarten Math Night, March 3
- Bridge International Festival, March 11
- Kindergarten Orientation, March 17
- Bridge Science Night, March 24
- Fifth Grade Shakespeare Play, “The Tempest”, March 25
- Spring Fling, April 1
- Parent Coffee Connection with Tom Plati, Director of Technology LPS presenting an update on Technology in the Lexington Public Schools, April 13 8:45 am

10. Other topics

- SRTS would like to have a carpool bulletin board. With regard to winter clearing, what are the defined routes to Bridge school? A map of these routes could be posted and parents would then know to call DPW if their route is not cleared.
- Reviewed dismissal procedure: suggest that walkers are released into the playground using the Kindergarten doors to minimize the congestion on the front sidewalk.
- Science night has a conflict with Shakespeare play dress rehearsal and cast party on March 24. Justine is working with Meg Collela and Frank Schapfel to find a solution.
- Next year, need to ensure that the Bridge School Calendar (Main Office) and the Bridge PTA events online calendar are crosschecked.
- Lost and Found – Clothing has been date tagged and will be removed approximately every 5 weeks.
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts – March 30 (K, 1st Grade), April 6 (2, 3 Grades), April 27 (4, 5 Grade).

- Committees – Each PTA Executive Committee Liaison needs to contact their committees and ascertain if the current Chair wishes to continue next year or if a new Chair will have to be identified.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting Date: April 13, 2011 1:30-3:00 pm, Conference Room 1 at Bridge School.

Minutes Submitted by PTA Secretary: Suzanne Lau