

MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting held on March 12, 2013 at 1:30 pm at the Weisberg Residence.

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PTA Executive Members Present:

Rebecca Moore (Co-President), Justine Wirtanen (Co-President), Tricia Weisberg (Treasurer), Sue Kingsbury, Laura Schroeder, Cathy Smith, Christie King, Lisa Dinsmore, Guorong Zhu (Acting Secretary), Guest Parent: Tim Carlson

Proceedings:

1. Welcome

- Rebecca called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.
- Lisa made a motion and Tricia 2nd it, to approve the meeting minutes from Feb. 12. Unanimous approval.

2. Budget Review:

- Not much new revenue since last time.
- New mini grant applications.
- ACT spent \$900 for bus costs to send 5th graders to MFA.
- 5th Graders' trip to BOS cancelled. Question: bus fare refund?
- 5th grader Raffle baskets ticket sale: Need to push ticket sale of baskets.
- Justine: \$140 for bus driver, will submit receipt.
- Fundraisers Net Income: Movie night did well. No outstanding expenses.
- PTA directory expense not included in the fundraiser net income. Membership and donations not included.

3. Traffic Congestion:

Justine and Rebecca had a long meeting with Erin McGuire, worried about student and teacher safety due to traffic congestion and road rage incidents. Erin thinks PTA should push for police detail because she has asked for it repeatedly with no success. Rebecca spoke with a police officer. The traffic congestion is aggravated by limited parking spaces around school, renovation constraints, and huge enrollment (538 kids: school grounds were built to accommodate 137 students and smaller staff). Only a small proportion of students are taking bus. Many parents park at school to pick up their children. A proposed complete ban on parking on Middleby Road would not be helpful. Divided dismissal is apparently not an option. Staff parking in the rear of the building is not available for parents.

What to do? Ann Stokes, Chair of Safe Routes to School Committee, has been actively involved in the issue. We propose to ask the Town and School Committee for temporary parking on the baseball field adjacent to Middleby Road to accommodate the extra parking needs. "Because of the above reasons, we need more parking." There is currently no space for emergency vehicles to access the school during afternoon pick-up due to traffic congestion. The front driveway circle cannot accommodate the current volume of cars. Buses are having difficulty turning into the rear driveway during afternoon dismissal. In addition, current storm water treatment construction at the Old Reservoir has further reduced parking and sidewalk access to

Bridge School. The PTA has to come up with a suggestion to the School Committee and will present it at the next SC meeting. Several people have suggested creating a petition letter for Bridge parents to sign. This will also be explored.

4. EC nominees

- Cathy & Sue have agreed to be co-president nominees for next year.
- The PTA will hold a general meeting, scheduled for the parents' coffee on Friday, 3/15 in order for the membership to vote on the nominating committee's proposed nominees.
- A number of key committee chairs are vacant including: Square1 Arts, Safe Routes to School, School Pictures, 5th Grade Committee
- Trish: EC should focus on filling next year's vacant chair positions than EC nominees.
- Nominating Committee will focus on 1 VP and the co-presidents.
- Sue will list the key open Chair positions and email people to find candidates.
- Jennifer Palowski may consider heading the 5th Grader Committee.
- Rebecca created a draft of end-of-year Committee Chair report, which can be accessed by the EC in Dropbox. Would like to finalize the template by next meeting. The template is designed to help new committee chairs.

5. Fundraising Initiatives

- Promoting wishing well at International Night.
- Spring Fling:
 - Sue confirming location and working with Whitsons for food.
 - Cathy: 3 classrooms available for activities. DJ booked.
 - Auction items (exploring Teacher Experiences, fire truck, Disney tickets, Kindle).
 - Budget of \$2500; goal is to raise \$5000.
- Future:
 - Explore Square1 Arts Tile Fundraiser: Wait for Meg to return. Bridge School submitted grant to LEF for mural artist in Cafeteria to work with kids. A couple of options: front wall, outside (Bridge Alums). Rebecca: we need to try to raise \$25,000-\$30,000. Needs approval from Meg. Rebecca and Justine have agreed to head up this fundraiser (unless someone else volunteers).
 - Explore Monster Carnival for Fall 2013 geared towards families, preferably held during the day on a Saturday afternoon. Contingent on Bridge renovation completion.
 - Explore Kidstuff Coupons
 - Explore holding a "Game Night, Game Right." (Exec Board Member to contact Estabrook PTA about this fundraiser. "Gameright" company comes in to set up the game and PTA gets 50% of profit based on game sales. Contact: Gretchen Reising
 - Explore holding another Family Zumba night (to raise \$ for ACT)

6. Upcoming Events

- Word Night: Wed, March 13, Clarke
- Parent Coffee Connection Math Curriculum: Fri, March 15, 8:30-9:45 am, Bridge cafeteria
- International Festival: Fri, March 15, Clarke (Dr. Ash Invited)
- Lex300 Incorporation Weekend (Bridge PTA to sell copies of Bently Boyd "Lexington Then & Now" Comic Book)
- Science Night: Thurs, April 4, Clarke
- 5G Spaghetti Dinner for 5th Grade families: new snow date: Sat, April 6, 4-9pm, St. Brigid's
- Spring Fling/Bridge End-of-Year Celebration, Friday, May 31, 5:30-8pm, Clarke
- Spring Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast (May during Teacher Appr. Week)
- Nature's Classroom/5G Camp: June 10-12, 2013
- 5G Graduation, June 19 (Bridge or Fiske Gym if raining)
- 5G Graduation Party @ Clarke Gym: 5-9pm, June 19
- Last day of school: June 21

7. Staff Change:

- Mrs. Sciarretta retiring.
- Baranofsky will be Acting Assistant Principal.
- 2 positions for K teachers. There will be 5 Kindergarten classes next school year.
- Justine & Rebecca will discuss with Principal how best to honor retirees.

8. Other:

- METCO gift check: Tricia to write a thank you note.

9. Membership & Communications:

- Discussed possible creation of an online sign-up sheet for Committee Chairs? (Nimisha?)

10. Adjourning Meeting:

- Any outstanding issues?
- Tim Carlson agreed to get involved in Safe Routes to School.
- Laura called to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Next meet starts at 1PM for the whole EC to discuss Spring Fling.

*** Meeting Minutes Taken by Guorong Zhu.