



PTO Board Meeting

April 26, 2019, 8:40am

Principal's office

Attendance: Jessica Gilmartin, Jennifer Weber, Miriam Alandydy, Joana Canedo, Karen Markson, Todd Harrison

MINUTES

Treasurer update

1. Spending of FY18 surplus

How is the PTO going to spend the 18K surplus for FY18? Ideas:

- A. **Mural project** (7k?) - Chris Laguerre will give a proposal - stipend for their time and all of the resources and materials, as well as a plan (# of murals, kids involved, etc.) Could be an extra school club, extra school activity. The idea is to have a few walls painted, since the last time was a long time ago.
- B. **Laptop carts** (11k?) - Mr. Harrison is going to ask for a quote.

2. Cash reserves

- The PTO has a 21k cash reserve, money we do not touch, to start the year solvent, in case we do not raise money as planned.
- Surplus from FY17 - 20K is set aside for auditorium renovation - as documented in [memo signed by the board](#). It is going to a savings account until it can be used.
- Scholarship Fund. [The Cindy Dailey Fund](#) has a 7K reserve

To increase its funds, next year we should push for all grades to contribute. The big payment is for 8th grade, but if families start in 6th grade, it adds up. Another idea is to mark one event to go to that scholarship fund, such as skate night or new ginza. or 1% of the auction.

We should try to have more third party contributions. Instead of asking individuals to contribute, ask them to ask for third party contribution - bank, boss, etc.



3. PayPal

The name on the PayPal account needs to be changed in order to change the settings and add the new banking account. While it's not done, 12K is sitting there. Miriam has been trying for 6 months with no success. Jessica will give them a call.

Even if it is done, we might consider closing the PayPal account. We could use just the Stripe account that we have linked to Auctria. Joana and Karen will look into that.

4. 8th Grade funds

The 8th Grade committee was hoping that a volunteer would ask for a donation from Century Bank, but that has not happened.

Big Night update

The event raised 20K. It was very successful. People enjoyed it. Good team worked on it.

New additions to the School

Two new bike racks were installed on Vernon street, in front of the auditorium entrance. They are already being used.

Two monitors were installed in the cafeteria for announcements. They are not connected to the announcement system yet.

Those items were paid by the PTO. We are going to post notes about them.

Auditorium update

No updates from facilities.

Sustainability efforts

1. recycling signs

As part of NewtonServes, we are going to install recycling signs in all rooms of the school. The signs were paid by the PTO.

Bigelow Middle School PTO

42 Vernon St., Newton, MA 02458



www.bigelowpto.org

2. Sustainability in the city - update

The School Committee is going to vote a Recycling Policy for Newton schools in order to improve recycling. A Green Newton group is working with Mr. Hurley to apply for a Recycling Grant for NPS from MassDEP. If that goes well, all principals will have to commit with a recycling plan. We don't know yet how it's going to work - probably by paying stipends to teachers to oversee recycling in schools.

3. Textile recycling

In order to get more funds for the recycling program, DPW is studying the idea of having textile recycling bins in every school, which can generate funds that would be dedicated to sustainability efforts.

4. Back to school supplies

The PTO is going to encourage again families to reduce and reuse schools supplies. Suggestions for the school supply list: add a water bottle as an optional purchase for the school year.

5. New Green Team

Deanna Hofmann, 8th grade Science Teacher, is going to start a Green Team at Bigelow as a club that will run on Mondays. First meeting is going to be on 04/29.