



Winter PTO Board Meeting

March 9, 2020, 7pm

Library - Attendance sheet is attached

MINUTES

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Principal's update

- a. The Winter Musical begins this week. It promises to be a great production.
- b. CASC program last week sponsored by PTO- Women in Jazz- it was terrific.
- c. The Auditorium - it now has new carpet, new lights, a new paint job, and looks terrific (was sponsored by the PTO)
- d. 8th graders have begun their transition to NN- course selections are underway.
- e. 5th graders began their transition to Bigelow- they coming to see the show, and the parent meeting is on the horizon.

3. PTO update

- a. Big night Hoedown at Hibernian Hall is on the 28th and promises to be a great time.
 - i. there will be square dancing
- b. Building a Community at Bigelow:
 - i. The PTO is committed to and working on creating a community with the Boston Families- we have a parent volunteer. Trying to figure out how to reach out and be of assistance and be more inclusive
- c. April 3rd is Bigelow unplugged- with games in the cafeteria



- d. Green Initiatives - recycling etc. at the school
there was a mtg last Monday night

4. School Committee update

- a. 2 members of the School Committee attended the PTO meeting
- b. They described the composition of the Committee:
 - i. 9 members including the mayor-
 - ii. all vote-
 - iii. 8 wards - each has rep -
 - iv. city wide
 - v. 2 year term
 - vi. two meetings per month
 - 1. Monday nights - may change to Wed
- c. 5 primary responsibilities:
 - i. Budget
 - ii. Eval the Superintendent- this is coming up
 - iii. District wide initiatives (ie h.s. start time)
 - 1. school building renovations:
 - a. Horace Mann School challenge - lessons learned
 - b. older buildings are a challenge
 - iv. Other Initiatives- each committee member sits on a sub-committee or several sub-committees
 - 1. transportation
 - a. issues with the bus
 - b. looking at bus registration going digital this year
 - c. maybe get a discount if you pay earlier



d. my school bucks- registering and processing online, pay in installments, will accept visa

2. sustainability-

a. food services

b. waste diversion / recycling

c. transportation- walk, bike take the bus

3. Food Service

a. Whitsons- committee member deals with whitsons and issues there

4. Contracts

a. negotiations with teachers, custodians and secretaries

5. website has info on what is going on.

5. Superintendent's update- David Fleischman

a. Loves March at Bigelow-

i. Civics Day- he used to teach h.s. civics

ii. Theater

iii. the student faculty BB game

iv. heterogeneous groupings for math started here

b. Budget

i. big 5th grade class moving in to the Middle schools

ii. Changes to his office-

1. created a Director of equity and inclusions &

2. director of sustainability

iii. Team looking at the h.s schedule

1. looking at how many transitions should a student have in a day (brookline-example)

2. fewer classes to prepare for / less homework



c. Elementary Schools

- i. the buildings- all old in the feeder schools to Bigelow
 - 1. Lincoln Elliot - plans to renovate with 18 classrooms
 - 2. Ward & Underwood: task force (Wednesday- Eva Thompson will chair this group) to look at underwood and ward- group is going to present options.

e. Corona Virus-

- i. leader of school facilities has gone around addressing touch points
- ii. schools will stay open as long as possible
- iii. will abide by CDC etc.
- ii. How much can kids work at home? online learning
 - 1. h.s. easier
 - 2. elementary unknown territory

6. Q&A

- a. Start Times
- b. Construction of the schools

7. A raffle was conducted and Julia won 2 tickets to Big Night

Bigelow Middle School PTO

42 Vernon St., Newton, MA 02458



www.bigelowpto.org

Winter PTO Board Meeting → 3/19/20
Sign In sheet

Vicki Spitzer &

Una Simmons

Karen Markson

Laura Gillespie

Daniel Scales

JOHN MULLIGAN

PETER DANIS

GIULIA GUFFANTI

Anping Shen School Committee

Bridget Ray-Canada SC

JOANA CANEDO F&G

Tede Harrison principal

Gabriela Kroszynski

Christelle Naud Ravard (GA)

JEFF SMITH

LAURA KEENAN GA