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# Bigelow Middle School PTO

42 Vernon St., Newton, MA 02458



[www.bigelowpto.org](http://www.bigelowpto.org)

PTO Fall Meeting  
October 10, 2020, 7pm

Virtual

**Attendance:** Karen Markson, Joana Canedo, Victoria Spetter, Amy McPherson, Linda , Todd Harrison, David Fleishman, Kathy Shields, - 50 people

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## 1. Welcome and introductions

- a. PTO President Karen Marson opened the meeting by introducing the 2020-2021 Board to the Membership. Markson then made general welcoming remarks.

## 2. About the PTO

- a. Markson gave a description of the PTO and its role in the Greater Bigelow community.
- b. The PTO raises funds, plans community building events, and supports the Principal, Teachers, and Staff.

## 3. Events

- a. 6th Grade Gatherings
- b. New 7th Grader Gatherings (for 7th graders new to Bigelow)
- c. 8th Grade Gatherings- none planned yet, but stay tuned
- d. Bigelow Trivia Night- Tentatively planned for Nov or Dec
- e. Ten Tables- with a new twist (due to the pandemic)
- f. Scavenger Hunt on Oct 31st Along with Gear Pickup
- g. One School One Book- with the author's virtual visit
  - i. 11-4 at 10:00 a.m.
- h. Fundraising - in lieu of dues annual appeal +
  - i. Seeking Corp Donors (Village Bank gave \$4500 for the 2nd year in a row)

## 4. Principal's update

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Amazing community. We have seen the very best to provide students with the best.

Feels good to be back in business. Students have adapted. Routines are set in place.

There's a lot to learn, but we are off to a good start.

Hybrid C students are having in person learning and it is working, including health protocols

New master schedule.

Earlier dismissal time on Wednesdays starting next week.

Advisory program: 3 mornings of ½ hour, to address social emotional needs. connecting with the kids. next few weeks - discuss the book New Kid

Challenges: get teachers and students to have 65 minute periods. it's a big adjustment. keep kids engaged. opportunities for discussion and complete individual work

Technology: has been trying. kids are terrific, patient and helping out.

After school activities: zoom clubs will get started soon. some next week. trying to have in person activities. the main problem is to make accessible for all, especially for students who live more than 2 miles away.

### **5. Superintendent and School Committee Q&A**

Positive about fully remote is students having a fully structured day.

Hybrid - students will be doing their work in the morning when they are not in school. they will have a 45 min time class in small groups with teachers. at Bigelow - 9 to 12 students class

Split hybrid - benefit of that is that DLA student can participate in the classes with their peers. when it's in person, DLA students

At Bigelow - they will remain in the current classes with the current teachers. the only things that change is the in person classes. DLA will have distance.



## **6. New Kid**

From Victoria C Spetter to Everyone: (20:09)

Can everybody please "sign in" here for attendance purposes?

From Amy McPherson to Everyone: (20:10)

Amy Lankenau McPherson

From Siobhan Wheeler to Everyone: (20:10)

Siobhan Wheeler

From margo michaels to Everyone: (20:10)

Margo Michaels

From Brian Rosenberg to Everyone: (20:10)

Brian Rosenberg

From Ruth Hertzman-Miller (she/her/hers) to Everyone: (20:10)

Ruth Hertzman-Miller

From Candace Weissman to Everyone: (20:10)

Candace Weissman

From Erin Olavesen to Everyone: (20:10)

Erin Olavesen

From Hao Wu to Everyone: (20:10)

Hao WU

From Kathy Shields to Everyone: (20:10)

Kathy Shields

From Gemma Gow to Everyone: (20:11)

Gemma Gow

From susan to Everyone: (20:11)

Susan St. Pierre

From megan flynn to Everyone: (20:11)

Megan Flynn

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From Shital to Everyone: (20:11)

Shital Gandhi

From Meredith Tzouros to Everyone: (20:12)

Meredith Tzouros

From Giulia Guffanti to Everyone: (20:12)

Giulia Guffanti

From Io Cyrus (Nonie's Mom) to Everyone: (20:12)

Io Cyrus

From Candace Weissman to Everyone: (20:12)

Caryn Lipchin

From Santi Puig's mom Tiffany to Everyone: (20:12)

Tiffany Angel (Santi Puig's mom)

From Nelson to Everyone: (20:13)

Sally and Nelson Dupere (Adelle's parents)

From jk123 to Everyone: (20:14)

Why the many changes in schedules ? Change from 6 day to 10 day cycle? Also, does this start Oct. 26th? That's what my son was told.

From heatherpozen to Everyone: (20:14)

Heather Pozen

From gwenh to Everyone: (20:15)

Gwen Hautefeuille

From Todd Vogel to Everyone: (20:16)

Deb and Todd Vogel

From jk123 to Everyone: (20:16)

Justine Kelley (Grade 6, Ryan Kelley)

From Krista Chavez | she,her to Everyone: (20:17)

Krista Chavez

From Krista Chavez | she,her to Me: (Privately) (20:18)

So good to see you! Can't wait to hear how the trip was

From Todd Harrison to Everyone: (20:23)

The change from 5 to the 10 day/2week schedule was due to flaws in the original master schedule. The 10 day/2week schedule began on Tuesday.

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(We only used Oct 26 as a sample because it is the first Monday on week 1 due to holidays.)

From Tiffany's iPhone 11 to Everyone: (20:26)

what about working parents who can't pick up their kids up at lunch time on the days that they go in person

From Me to Krista Chavez | she,her: (Privately) (20:26)

yeah! Will be home on Sunday :-)

From Karen Markson to Everyone: (20:28)

Hello everyone. Please start sending in your questions for Kathy Shields and David Fleishman.

From Cara Nelson to Everyone: (20:29)

Is there any plan to keep the kids in school for full days similar to elementary schools at some point during the year?

From Io Cyrus (Nonie's Mom) to Everyone: (20:29)

I appreciate the information about classes. Not sure if it's on the agenda, but can we talk a little about ways for kids to get to know other kids? Club/social/friendship building opportunities

From Vicki Spetter, PTO Secretary to Everyone: (20:30)

REMINDER: PLEASE SIGN IN HERE- Thanks.

From margo michaels to Everyone: (20:30)

Is there any reason the aspan schedule has to be followed when they have it all on their calendar

From Erin Olavesen to Everyone: (20:30)

How much of the curriculum will be covered once students move to hybrid with the assumption that learning time will be sacrificed for the opportunity to learn face to face?

From margo michaels to Everyone: (20:31)

is the hybrid likely to continue thru june

From Susan St. Pierre to Everyone: (20:31)

Are there any current challenges or concerns to getting the hybrid started in mid novembter? In other words, how sure are you they are really going to start mid-Nov.

From Cara Nelson to Everyone: (20:31)

Thank you for the responses - what time will the half day end once they are in-person?

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From Todd Vogel to Everyone: (20:34)

what plan is in place if teachers are exposed to COVID and can't get to school during hybrid?

From Peter Cabral to Everyone: (20:34)

Peter Cabral / Shio Hirata (Nuno's parents)

From Lisa Kirby to Everyone: (20:34)

Will it be possible to offer Laps at lunch to help the kids get some exercise and fresh air?

From Monika Sawicka to Everyone: (20:35)

What is the plan for Band? Can they meet in person? Can lunch break can be longer? It is very hard to make lunch and eat it within 30min. If the other t

From Io Cyrus (Nonie's Mom) to Everyone: (20:38)

Can you talk about the purpose of the teacher-student meetings on Wednesdays?

From Siobhan Wheeler to Everyone: (20:39)

When the students are in the building for their hybrid day will their teachers be in the building as well? Or are the teachers still teaching remotely to the class?

From Io Cyrus (Nonie's Mom) to Everyone: (20:40)

how is that supposed to work? My student signed up with four teachers one afternoon and was very excited to have that time, but a teacher told her she should only sign up for one teacher meeting on Wednesday afternoons. We're not sure how this works

From margo michaels to Everyone: (20:45)

is the hybrid likely to continue thru june

From Monika Sawicka to Everyone: (20:46)

After these first days kids are very tired. Can we have more breaks built into the class time and teach kids to look away from the computer , stretch, etc.

From jk123 to Everyone: (20:50)

If I understand correctly, IN PERSON will be mornings only? What days of the week?

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From Candace Weissman to Everyone: (20:51)

Will DLA also have asynchronous learning on specific days as the hybrid will have on their remote days?

From Todd Harrison to Everyone: (20:55)

In person hybrid will be mornings only. Hybrid A attends on Mon and Tues mornings and Hybrid B is thur and Fri mornings

From Todd Harrison to Everyone: (21:07)

Link to Library page on 1 School 1 Book program:

<https://mslibraries.newton.k12.ma.us/c.php?g=589173&p=7566295>

From Io Cyrus (Nonie's Mom) to Everyone: (21:08)

That is a very helpful link. Thank you!

From Kathy Shields to Everyone: (21:14)

I just looked at the article about Wellesley and it looks like this is a one-time test, not an ongoing testing program. We discussed a one-time test with HHS and their thinking was that it was of limited value because it captures only a single moment in time.

Patty Summa -

New Kid Vocabulary link:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tp17Zy5nc4boEKuZbADoMn5tmkZQ6yZCQF5pBlxeaa4/edit?usp=sharing>

Covid Testings