

Bowman PTA Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018

Bowman Library

7:00 PM Sign-In, Welcome, and Introductions

In attendance: Gary Van Deurse, Courtney Lauriat, Karin Ornstein, Katie Quick, Allison Stevens, Rebecca Fagan Gorospe, Hien Nguyen, Lisa Premerlani, Taleen Gleeson, Cindy Arens, Lauren Avery, Martha Rogers, Joshua Curhan

7:10 PM PTA Business

- Playground update-Shawn Newell, Assistant Director of Facilities for Town of Lexington, attended the meeting to discuss plans for a new playground at Bowman
 - Bowman will be getting a new playground over the summer (hopefully) using CPA funds to replace the playground that was moved from Harrington to Bowman in 2008
 - The current proposal is for an all-inclusive K-5 play structure, ADA compliant, tactile structures, and new surfacing
 - The old structure (larger one on the left) will be renovated and made ADA compliant and all-inclusive and we will receive a new structure on the right
 - Current proposal is to renovate the existing play structure and to add a new play structure, oodle swing, and topsy turvy spinner. New picnic tables will also be installed. There is no xylophone in the original design but trying to incorporate one. All plans are in the works and open to discussion and feedback
 - Feedback from PTA members:
 - 2 structures have very similar gross motor abilities and would like to see something like the climbing structure at Bridge to add more variety
 - Would like: lunar blast, spider web, more swings, shade, equipment for a variety of grade levels. Several people agreed that we do not want a merry-go-round due to concerns about sickness
 - Mr. Newell would like a committee of Bowman parents/ faculty to come to a reasonable conclusion based on budget of what we'd like to see, what to take out, how many swings, etc. After coming up with a list of priorities the committee can meet with Shawn Newell and Megan O'Brien (from M.E. O'Brien company). Gary will make a doodle poll for a time to meet and elicit feedback from the community.
 - A question was raised about whether the PTA can raise money and incrementally add to the new playground over the years
 - Mr. Newell shared that the land needs to be surveyed to see where wetlands/conservation area is-there may be slight changes to the perimeter of the new playground
 - Some PTA representatives asked if the basketball nets would be replaced with the new playground and Shawn Newell said they can be fixed. The PTA Presidents will talk with Dr. Anton about having these fixed.

- Treasurer Report
 - Thank you notes were received from Chrissy Ashness and Jean Bitton for their gifts from the PTA
 - Budget
 - Final numbers are in for spaghetti dinner and we received \$6000 in income
 - Artsonia
 - The PTA received a check from Ms. Goldfarb with money received from Artsonia. She doesn't need any supplies this year so the PTA will hold the money so she can spend it as needs arise.
 - Unanimous vote approved to create an equity account so funds can be held from year to year and used as needed.
 - Ms. Goldfarb needs help finding volunteers for Artsonia and has asked PTA to help provide a parent base to provide standing help to upload artwork, keep Artsonia current, introduce new families to Artsonia, and help with bulletin boards. PTA will create an "Artsonia coordinator" who will coordinate with Ms. Goldfarb and help find more volunteers as needed. We will include it in our recruitment for positions for next year
- Membership
 - Alison Stevens is going to create a welcome packet to be given to families new to Bowman with PTA membership information as well as information on how to sign up for Artsonia
 - SWAG Samples were shown-pencil sharpener and pencil, lunch bag, magnet, canvas bags, water bottles. Rebecca Gorospe will consider options-look into klean canteen, snack bags, and insulated straw cups
- Composting update
 - Cindy Arens and Hien Nguyen would like to establish a Bowman Green Team.
 - Lunch composting has not yet taken off at Bowman but we have had success and good feedback from composting at events (Spaghetti Dinner and Movie Night) and would like to continue to do so at these events.
 - "Green Team" has a mission, goals, etc. and are thinking of other ways to encourage recycling/composting efforts at the school. Eco-corner/green tips going into Broadside and using compostable paper products at school events were both proposed. The document references school committee bylaws and goals to reduce waste and practice more sustainable practices.
 - There is a higher cost for compostable paper products, gloves, etc. They want the PTA to make a commitment to prioritizing use of compostable materials for PTA events whenever possible and to set aside money to support those goals (which would be in-line with school committee goals).
 - Bowman is behind other elementary schools in town in terms of composting. One PTA member suggested this is a cost that the PTA should incur. PTA Presidents will reach out to the PPC to see what process other schools have

taken and then email a vote to the executive board prior to making budget changes.

- Lisa Premerlani will build a Green Team budget into next year's budget
- A question was raised about whether this might be a fundraising opportunity similar to ACT when people sign up for a PTA membership
- Cindy Arens will work with Rebecca Gorospe to set up an email address for the green team.
- Calendar for next year-discussion put off until a future meeting
- Kindergarten Screening volunteers needed-discussion put off until a future meeting

8:15 PM Any other Business

8:30 PM Adjourn

Next PTA meetings:

- Wednesday, May 16th, 7pm
- June PTA Party TBD

Upcoming Events:

- 5/? Staff Appreciation
- 5/15 Book Swap and Ice Cream Social

- 5/31 Passport to the World