Countryside PTO Board Meeting

Monday, September 17; 7pm

Home of Adam Howes/ 756 Boylston St.

Present:

Adam Howes, Shion Walsh, Barbara Mauger, Ryan Brennan, Jennifer Behr, Rakashi Chand, Avery Jung, Sherri Bianchi, Negar Shivaei, Samenta Abraham, Liz Flaig, Beth Herlihy, Esther Zaff, Rebecca Gavin,

**Minutes**

Introductions

**Back to School Night** - Co-Presidents

No childcare this year.

Questions? Ask Adam Howes.

**Annual Fund** – Rebecca Gavin

New strategy; PTO Board Matching challenge- Rebecca and Sherri have asked board to make a pledge and will challenge the community to match; this is to create a sense of giving urgency early on; raised $4,500 (this includes Corporate matching); This will be announced this Sunday to drum up interest and support from other families.

BtSN- Have a table where volunteers will take donations by credit card using an app

Sherri can be there for part of the time. Other volunteers? Someone with a child in Gr. 3-5

They will be marketing the pie chart a little differently by providing more specific numbers (ie- “$500 will buy such-and-such,” etc.)

Questions:  
Corporate matching- we will make a push for corporate matching; when sending a thank you note, they will ask if people have corporate matching.

Rebecca and Sherri are happy to answer questions offline if you wish

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parent Party** - review dates – Rakashi

DATE: 10/19-20

- Sheraton, but they are asking more than last time; it will be a better experience, very good deal for what we will be getting

- We have a “soft hold” on the hotel, contract is not signed

- $33. per person for the hotel

Hoping to keep ticket at $40; It appears we would break even.

We would have the room and the lobby so people have a quiet place to talk

This will be a social bonding experience rather than a fund-raiser. There is not enough time to pull together and auction. There is not a raffle team in place and that is very labor intensive

Theme- Masquerade- Halloween-ish, but not Halloween

Is there enough time for people to get babysitters?

Pushing it forward would get too close to Thanksgiving and December holiday

We could just break even if we gave 1 free drink as an incentive

This might be unattractive to families who do not drink

Other option- the Residence in Needham- for $15/person

Sherri has had a bad experience there

Catering would come from somewhere else

Liz Flaig- We should get a Save the Date out and plan later

Potluck Dinner?

People always like the MCF; this is similar

This might draw people who are not used to American tradition of drinking party

Maybe ask Josh/ his band to play

We will get the save-the-date out this week- email blast

**METCO Playdates**

FORJ effort to deepen connections to METCO

FORJ is planning 3 playdates in Boston; first is on 10/20

Playdates will be at parks, places with no admission; no food

Nov 1. Board Meeting in Boston

* In West Roxbury Library; if that falls through, Beth Herlihy can help us get Hyde Park Library

**Halloween Party** – Sue Johnston & Barbara Mauger

Date: Sat 10/27; decorate on Fri 10/26

DJ will set up at 6pm

Amy and Ken Volk are already starting decorating

No Haunted Hallway. It was too much work and kids didn’t spend much time there

This is NOT a drop-off event; we will keep sending that message repeatedly til the event; people got this message last year more than they had in the past

**Room Parents** Update – Negar

16 classes/ 6 classes are set with room parents

Negar spread the word at the Fall Picnic; will send email to the classrooms; will have paper sign-up sheet in the classrooms at BtSN

Liz Flaig Suggestion- Reach out to teachers and have them email the families

**Communication – Facebook**

Facebook as secondary communication option in addition to Instagram and Twitter – Barbara

Facebook was a good way to contact people for the Gardening Committee; FB is for our generation, Twitter and Instagram are not the best way to contact people

Someone has created a Countryside Parents FB page; we cannot control it

We could set up a page and shut off comments, BUT then people could break off and comment together

There is a Countryside PTO handle

We would need an administrator for the page.

We can have a page where we just make announcements, not comments

We should make sure we have control of the official page. Past presidents set up the site and never did anything so info is lost. It will take a month or so to get control of the handle.

What do other schools do? A lot have FB pages

Set up the page without any commenting

**Lunch Questions**

There are 40 minutes for lunch- 20min to eat; 20 min to play

Beth can talk with families off-line, work out something for kids who need extra time.

**Open Volunteer positions** - Co-Presidents

Bulletin Board person needed

4th grade art contest- Jen Behr

**Musical Team**

Met on Friday to address Portrayal of Native Americans in the play Peter Pan, Jr.

Removed offensive pieces

FORJ might like to see the new script- will contact CoPs and Musical Team about that

**Executive Board Vote on Budget**

Ryan Brennan, Adam Howes, Liz Flaig, Kerry Prasad Barbara Mauger, Shion Walsh, Negar Shivaei, Avery Jung

Ryan- concern about the parent party not being a fund-raiser

Suggestions: we ask people to make a basket?

Response: the background is that people do not like being asked to pay for a ticket, get sitter and then also contribute a basket

We can do a 50/50 raffle

Next year with the new Equity Policy

$80/ student for academic/school related things

We can charge more for the Mystery Dinner; other schools charge almost double what we do.

Games at the party will bring in some money

We always make a contribution to the Library, not to Art or Music Department/ Is this something we would like to keep

Welcome Cmte did not spend their full budget, dropped this year

UOD and Newton Serves are suggested Contributions we always make

BtSN take away $500 bc we will not have babysitters

Our insurance policy doubled; can we find a lower price?

We can revisit this in December or January to see if we need a new fundraiser

**Do you approve this budget?**

**Aye**

**Anonymous- Brennan, Howes, Flaig, Prasad, Mauger, Walsh, Shivaei, Jung**

**Nay**

**None**