

## MINUTES of Bancroft PTO

Meeting date: **Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:00 a.m.**

---

**Call to order:** A General meeting of the Bancroft PTO, was held in Bancroft Media Center, Andover MA on February 15, 2011. The meeting convened at 9 a.m., President, Denise Wall.

### Members in attendance:

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 . Denise Wall        | 8. Kerri Ford          |
| 2 . Michelle Russo     | 9. Heidi Borenstein    |
| 3 . Karen Vigurs-Stack | 10. Pam Kline          |
| 4 . Maureen O'Brien    | 11. Cindy Gottfried    |
| 5 . Namita Gupta       | 12. Deb Nichols        |
| 6 . Cathy Boese        | 13. Francine Goldstein |
| 7 . Brad Weeden        | 14. Nancy Dankert      |

### Officers' reports:

- 1 . Introduction, call to order and welcome from the President **Denise Wall**.
- 2 . **Approval of the Minutes from Jan 24<sup>th</sup> PTO Meeting:** Maureen O'Brien, Seconded by Brad Weeden.
- 3 . **Principal Francine Goldstein:** Ms. Goldstein expressed gratitude and excitement for the affirmative vote for the new school. She informed us that the children made thank you cards for the residents of Andover during art class to be distributed throughout the town. The cards will be displayed in the Senior Center, the School Committee lobby, Town Hall and Memorial Library. The next step in the building process will be considerations for the outdoor play space. The "playground focus group" met last week. A representative from a playground equipment company was there to answer questions. The representative informed the committee that the play equipment can, indeed, be moved from one location to another without voiding the warranty. A 30% installation fee may be charged for the initial installation and again if it is moved. A preliminary ballpark estimate for the playground is about \$100,000.00. The area behind the current Bancroft school will be cleared for a parking area and a play space.

It was noted that Ms. Goldstein is always looking for people to join the various focus groups. If you are interested, you should contact her directly.

Ms. Goldstein reported that the teachers are in the process of choosing the top 5 suggestions from the suggestion box. The children are invited to submit suggestions on how to make Bancroft a better place. Then, Ms Goldstein will pick the top 10 "feasible" suggestions and the teachers will choose their top 5.

These top 5 will be voted on by the students and the winning 1 or 2 suggestions will be incorporated. Last year, “Reunion Day” was the top suggestion and was so well received that it will be continued this year.

Ms. Goldstein next reported that the Bancroft Buddies have been working on a project where they have to complete the sentence: **I promise to respect myself by...** and draw a corresponding picture. These pages may be woven together to create a respect quilt.

- 4 . **Teacher Presentation: Michelle Russo:** Ms Russo asked each grade level to summarize what they are doing this month and reported the following regarding each grade level:

**K** – Animals in winter. Water will be next.

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Phonics – writing stories; Math - writing numbers up to one thousand on a scroll; Science - solids and liquids; Social Studies – “Me on a map”

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – On March 3<sup>rd</sup> will see Hansel and Gretel; will be going to the Addison Gallery of Art; geometry unit in math; Penguin project; “Ms Hilton’s class is doing a “Minute to Win it” type game for their Math Bug celebration.

**3<sup>rd</sup>**- working on a Land and Water Unit; Geometry

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Old Sturbridge Village Field Trip 4/7; space and regions; long composition in preparation for MCAS. 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to thank PTO for the Lego Program presentation.

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Mr. Money for a presentation on rocks and minerals; Lego program presentation on 2/17; Colonial Williamsburg Day 2/18; thank you PTO for the Changes in Matter presentation

**Media** – Caldecott Awards; biography research project; researching Canada; Aztec/Inca/Maya presentations

**Art** - “Thank you” for voting for Bancroft cards were made

Ms. Nichols stated that the teachers have been working without a contract since last June. Ms. Nichols stated further that the School Committee asked for a mediator to step in to the negotiations. Discussion ensued.

- 5 . **Treasurers Report: Cindy Gottfried:** Report attached.

- 6 . **Team Discretionary Fund: Karen Vigurs-Stack:** Karen went over the requests so far.

- Literacy team – money spent on games for kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades from Lakeshore
- Art - money spent on glue sticks
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - \$0.00 remaining. Money spent on Lego Program

- 7 . **Bancroft Building Project: Denise Wall:** Currently we have focus groups working on Media Center

Gym

Playground

If you are interested in joining a focus group please contact Francine Goldstein. New focus group members are always welcomed and encouraged.

- 8 . **Grade Level Reps – Cathy Boese:** Grade reps met last week to discuss holding another grade level “social”. Ideas were brainstormed for ways to entice parents to attend. Suggestions included: having a smart board presentation before/after the social; having Rick Irving come to do a presentation with a social before/after; and possibly an Open Circle presentation and social. It was suggested that babysitting be available to encourage more parents to attend.
  
- 9 . **ACE – Denise Wall:** Ace is asking for help from the PTO/PACs and community groups in funding APS initiatives. Dr. Marinel McGrath identified two projects for APS: the need for more technology via whiteboards for the middle schools and high schools and the need to train all elementary teachers in the “Open Circle” program currently in use by many of the teachers. Ace is asking for \$1000.00 per elementary PTO by April to assist in funding the Open Circle program town wide. It was suggested that the PTO look into the parent part of the Open Circle program on their website.
  
- 10 . **Nomination Committee: Cathy Boese:** Valerie Previte volunteered to chair PALS for the spring. Thank you Valerie! Namita Gupta, Tracey Blueman and Ellen Silviera volunteered to co-chair the fundraising portion of the Father/Daughter Dance. Thank you!

The position of assistant Treasurer or Co-treasurer for the remainder of this year and for next year is still open. This position does not require an accounting or financial background although knowledge of excel and /or quicken is helpful. This is a position which offers a unique perspective into the Bancroft PTO and the opportunity to participate at a high level in the inner workings of the PTO. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Boese at [jcboese@verizon.net](mailto:jcboese@verizon.net)

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. in the Bancroft Media Center. All are welcome.

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn: Cathy Boese, seconded by Cindy Gottfried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

Cathy Boese, Bancroft PTO

Date of approval: