

April 10, 2012 - PTA General Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Maria Samson	mariasamson1@gmail.com
Kelley Kokoros	g.kokoros@verizon.net
Diane Vetrano	d.vetrano@verizon.net
Irena Magzelci	irena.magzelci@live.com
Kathleen Kim	kathleenkim1@verizon.net
Frank Dill	fydill3@aol.com
Emily Westover	emily.westover@gmail.com
Deanna Witter	deannewitter@juno.com
Camille Westover	camillewestover@yahoo.com
Mike McAllister	MMcAllister@belmont.k12.ma.us
Ben Castleton	bcastleton@partners.org

March in Review (Frank Dill reporting for Kathryn Whittemore)

Auction:

- Ben Castleton will review auction financials later in meeting.
 - Approximately 200 people attended the auction.
 - The auction committee is in the process of sending thank-you notes to donors right now.
- Things to keep in mind for the next auction (2015):
- Identify co-chairs and committee members in March 2014 (one year before auction)
 - Committee should begin gathering donations over the summer of 2014.
 - Spend more time on publicity in order to drive attendance.
 - Put more thought into minimum bids. We set minimum bids a bit high and bidding didn't get going until the very end of the silent auction.
 - Overall the event was a great success and the auction committee thanks all the Butler families who contributed in any way to make this a successful event.

Upcoming PTA events:

Talent Show (Diane Vetrano):

- 70 kids signed up this year, an increase from 50 participants last year
- Each performance will be brief; ideally show would be limited to about 2 hours
- On Wednesday April 11th there will be a "dry run" rehearsal including the group dance
- On Wednesday April 25th from 6-8 PM there will be a dress rehearsal on stage
- Talent show will be held at Butler on April 28th from 3-5 PM
- Diane suggested a bake sale fundraiser to be held during the talent show intermission. Baked goods could be provided by the 3rd grade Brownie troop and talent show participants. Diane suggested the bake sale proceeds be donated to "Smile Train", a charity which provides free cleft palate surgery around the world. For more information, see their site at <http://www.smiletrain.org/>

Electronics Recycling Day (Maria Samson reporting for Kathy Craig):

- Electronics Recycling Day will also be held on Saturday April 28th from 9 AM – Noon.
- Will be collecting appliances, computers, air conditioners, etc. in the Butler Parking Lot.
- Kathy is seeking volunteers to help load truck, cover bathroom breaks, etc. If interested contact her at: samkathy@verizon.net

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Maria Samson reporting for Lisa Gibalerio):

- Will be held this year on Wednesday May 23rd from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM
- Not an early release day, unlike other years.

- Luncheon will be held in three shifts for the different grades
- Seeking volunteers for set up and clean up
- Seeking donations of fresh fruit, flowers, desserts, coffee from Dunkin Donuts
- It was suggested that room parents be approached to solicit families for donations.

Spring Clean-Up (Maria Samson reporting for Cara Cogliano):

- Spring Clean Up will not be held this year due to playground construction.
- Fall Clean Up will be scheduled on a weekend to increase attendance.

Playground Update (Mike McAllister):

- \$106,000 in contributions have been received or pledged to the playground fund.
- Funding should allow for site preparation, new structure, new swings, and resilient surfacing material.
- Goal is to have a usable playground at least before the last day of school on June 14th
- 3 bids were submitted, and many playgrounds were visited by committee members.
- Fred Domenici, Director of Buildings and Grounds, is currently negotiating the contract with one of the vendors, Creative Recreation.
- Plan is to schedule a “Community Build” on a Saturday and Sunday in May. This would involve Butler parents helping to assemble playground components, with direction from the playground vendor. This has not been scheduled yet.
- John Murphy is helping to prepare the site and address drainage issues.
- There was some discussion of creating a playground maintenance fund with any remaining funds. One view expressed is that the town/school district should step up and own playground maintenance.

Spring Picnic (Maria Samson reporting for Qudsia Ejaz):

- Scheduled for Tuesday June 5th
- Anticipating Brother’s Pizza and popsicles will be served
- Concern was expressed about the condition of the field and playground. It was suggested that we should explore relocating the picnic to PQ park.
- Field is currently in poor condition, in part because it is more intensely used with the playground closed. Mike does not want the field repaired until after the playground is built—the students need all the space we have at the moment.

Color Day (Emily Westover reporting for Ernie Thebado):

- Not yet scheduled.
- Could be a walking trip to PQ park, although there are limited bathroom facilities at PQ.
- Ernie would like to minimize confusion and improve flow of the event this year.

4th Grade Moving On (Emily Westover reporting for Maureen Frohne and Kerri Benson):

- Date set last Tuesday of the school year: June 12th at 9 AM
- No evening event. After ceremony kids will go over to PQ park.
- Art project is underway: found one blank spot down the ramp from entryway to cafeteria
- Need volunteers, especially with refreshments and rearranging chairs in cafeteria in time for lunch. Looking for 3rd grade parents to help out. Signup was just issued.

PTA Standing Committees:

After School Enrichment (Camille Westover reporting for Stacy Small):

- Spring classes will be held from April 2nd through June 4th.
- Offering 17 classes, with 241 registrations and 153 students.

Will be working on fall schedule before the end of the year. Please send recommendations for classes to Camille or Kelley Kokoros, who volunteered to help next year.

Box Tops (Frank Dill reporting for Laura VanderHart & Mary Christensen):

- Butler collected 1096 box tops in March, or \$109.60.
- This year to date, 10585 box tops were collected, or \$1,058.50. When on-line earnings are included, Butler has raised about \$1425 this year.
- March classroom winners were Murray with 225, Babson with 132, and Chiu with 96.
- Thanks to everyone for their continued participation and enthusiasm!
- Please remember to initiate online purchases through: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>
- Butler is currently leading all the other Belmont elementary schools and Chenery.

Nominating Committee (Maria Samson reporting for Crate Herbert & Qudsia Ejaz)

- Not sure yet which positions will need to be filled
- Committee seeking nominations for all positions, including Co-president Elect, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, VP of Ways and Means, VP of In-School Enrichment, and Financial Secretary
- Nominations to be announced at the May PTA meeting
- May PTA meeting to be a general meeting, instead of a board meeting as scheduled

PTA Business:

Meeting Minutes (Sara Smith):

- Sara—where are the meeting minutes?

Budget report (Ben Castleton):

- After expenses, the auction raised approximately \$25,000 for the PTA.
- Currently there are \$230 in uncollected bids.
- If anyone knows auction attendees Crowley and Anderson please let Ben know.
- Kendall Foley and Kathy Sullivan Mahoney have not collected items.
- We anticipate about \$26,000 in the PTA account at the end of the school year.

Other Business:

- Kindergarten Registration coming up this Thursday 9-2
- Maria will bring coffee for new parents; Nancy D. will set it up

Nurse's Garden:

- Connie Page contacted Lisa Oteri about a wish list for supplies for the Nurse's Garden
- Connie volunteers to help, but could use additional fencing, mulch, and plantings, estimated at \$250.
- It was suggested that we circulate the wish list in the form of a Google Doc to Butler Parents. The PTA could chip in to help with any remaining items on the list.