

Chenery PTO meeting 3/1/2012

Welcome and opening remarks delivered by Megan Pickette, Co-Chair Peggy Eysenbach had a previous engagement and could not attend today's meeting. Introduction where made by all attendees.

Missing from the meeting were invited guest Laurie Graham, school committee member, due to illness and Daniel Coplon-Newfield, Assistant Principal, had duties within the school.

Guest Speaker Dr. Thomas Kingston spoke on the responsibilities and goals of the School Committee and the school budget.

Currently the school committee has 6 strategic planning goals that are due to expire in October. The Strategic Plan is designed to work within 18 months and then it is revised, it is a continuous ongoing project.

A balance budget promotes a higher quality of atmosphere among staff and community. When there is less anxiety you can plan and work within strategic planning

Questions from audience -

Chicago math? Needs to phase out. The Common Core (standards and expectations of curriculum content) is the base for directing the future. There are 2 new series of mathematical curriculum being explored by curriculum directors. Parents will be invited to view when a final decision is made.

What are the strengths of Belmont system? Parent involvement, both financial and volunteer time. The school can also draw from the professional base of its parents. Excellent teachers, that commit with the school district. The town is commitment to the schools. An irony for

budget work is that Belmont carries of the highest tax bases in the Commonwealth but spending per student is \$1,500 lower than State average.

What are some innovation ideas that are being tossed around?-Web base learning, example Khan academy. And Flipped Classroom-students come to class and work on homework, do work as teams.

Heidi Johnson, Assistant Principal, report – working on enrichment programs for next year. Math Counts, 40 kids met with Heidi at 7:30 Friday mornings for the school year. They came in 5th in district, 4 kids have moved on to State finals this Saturday 3/3. At the district competition two former students came up to Heidi and said Thanks. Both are women and engineers who volunteered their time for Math Counts and were taught by Heidi. Yay!!! Congratulations!!! Next year parent volunteer will coach the lower school and upper school will be coached by Ms. Steward, grade 8 math teacher.

Kristin St. George, Principal, report - regional History Day competition will be held 3/3, a few students will compete in both competitions, History Day and Math Counts, congratulations to all! It is a pleasure to work with Mr. Kingston. Upcoming important parent meetings for field trips to Ferry Beach and the 8th Grade DC trip, MCAS prep this month, MCAS start near the end of March. Schedules and lunch will be shifted. Best work, good food, rest well. Please do not make appointments for children during the testing weeks. Students cannot leave the testing and return.

Committee Updates

Fundraising - Cookie Dough Sales on now, Raise some Dough for Chenery! On sale now till March 16th.

Upper School Enrichment – not here but reported there are some events in the works

Lower School Enrichment – Ben Franklin will be visiting, social studies event and visiting author.

PTO Clubs – Winter clubs winding down, Spring Registration coming soon in April

Newsletter/New Website - still being updated, hopefully soon.

Treasure Report

Stipends for delivered to all staff members. This is a way that PTO can say thank you to staff members. Budget approved.

Membership Report

Reached membership goals and over!!! Great work.

Secretary Report

Printing issues, minutes from previous meeting on January 12 still need approval.

Important Dates

March 9 – 7&8th grade dance, volunteers needed

March 9 – 5th grade parent social/scholarship fundraiser for Ferry Beach at Jenny Boston

March 22 – 6th grade Star Party, volunteers needed

May 3 – PTO Meeting, 7-8:30pm

May 4 – 7th grade only dance

June 7 – PTO meeting 9-10:30am

Adjournment 10:30am