

Chenery PTO Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2019

8:05 AM

Attendance: Approx. 25

Minutes taken by Sunyoung Hong-Osborn

PTO BUSINESS

- **Welcome:** Ms. Bulfoni and Ms. Ganguly, co-presidents
- **Enrichment Update:** Co-President Ms. Bulfoni stated that, thanks to a BAR grant, Urban Improv will present realistic scenes to open discussion to our 7th and 8th graders on difficult subjects such as bullying, peer pressure, prejudice, stereotyping, and racism.
- **Multi-Cultural Night:** Ms. Bulfoni said that the multi cultural night will take place on March 28th, 2019 and that we need parent volunteers to help at the event. This year, we will have a live performance by Crocodile River Music, participatory concert focusing on the music and dance of Mali, West Africa, with authentic instruments and costumes.
- **Parents Lecture Series:** There are three upcoming events sponsored by BASEC, the Belmont Public schools, the PTAs/PTOs, and more: parent lecture series in March through May of 2019. Topic of these lectures will be on "Raising racially aware children".

CHENERY GREEN TEAM UPDATE: MS. Cabell Eames

Ms. Cabell Eames Chair of the Chenery Green Team explained the role of Trash Bashers at Chenery. Chenery has a group of student volunteers (Trash Bashers) that make sure that trash is disposed correctly during lunch hour (i.e. Food goes to waste; Recyclable to recycle bins; and compostable trays stacked neatly).

Ms. Eames also relayed upcoming news from Chenery Green Team. Black Earth Composting Company is coming to Chenery to present what compost is and does on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. On the same day, students will watch an interview of Black Earth Composting during their homerooms. Black Earth representative(s) will be at the cafeteria during the lunch hour (10 am to 12 pm) and answer related questions. It is a great educational opportunity.

Ms. Eames said that it would be great to have parent volunteers being Trash Bashers for one day so that the students can visit the Black Earth table.

A sign up by grade will be sent with the Chenery reminders.

“MEET THE AUTHOR” UPDATE: Ms. Christa Bauge

Ms. Christa Bauge first thanked those who helped/donated for staff appreciation week. She gave us an update on the recent and upcoming Author Events:

- a. February 5, 2019 - Jerry Craft (author of *New Kid*) visited and met with Chenery 8th grader in the cafeteria and talked about how to write and illustrate graphic novels via 8th grade art class
- b. February 12, 2019 - Renee Watson and Ellen Hagan (authors of *Watch Us Rise*) will visit Chenery 7th graders in the cafeteria
- c. February 14, 2019 - Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer (authors of *To Night Owl from Dogfish*) will visit and meet all grades in the cafeteria

Please remind your kids of these events.

BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE: Superintendent John Phelan

Superintendent John Phelan gave a power point presentation regarding the 7-12 Building Project and provided a more detailed update on the proposed design, construction phases and schedule, impact of construction to students and community.

Attached are a copy of *Belmont High School Building Project Quarterly Update and Construction Phasing Presentation* which are available at the Belmont High School Building Project website (<https://www.belmont-ma.gov/belmont-high-school-building-project>).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.