

Monday May 13, 2019
PTO Public Meeting

7:35 – Meeting called to order and March meeting minutes were reviewed and approved

MSBA Building Project Update - Chuck Adam – Owners Building Project Manager (SKANSKA)

- Chuck works for SKANSKA and works with the schools/architects/MSBA to ensure we are following the process and staying within budget. Meet weekly with a team of people to review the plans
- Meetings have been happening at Blanchard because all of the Boxborough pre-school will need to move to the new preschool. This is a change to the initial proposal and they have been presenting this to the school.
- Currently in the schematic design phase – will determine the building look and then pricing and this will be voted on in the winter at town meetings
- Will take down the K-1 pod at Gates to build the new building
- Highlights from design;
 - STEAM labs – get additional money for these from the state
 - Shared playground, some shared library, and learning commons are shared spaces
 - State standards for size of classrooms
 - Looking at ways to use roofs as green space and solar panels – attempting net zero water/waste/energy usage
 - Outdoor play space are age appropriate and have some structured space and some free play space
 - Pick up/drop off/bus lines all considered
- Additional meetings are scheduled for July/October/finally towns vote in December to finalize and approve the design/budget etc

Intro & Voting of Incoming PTO Board Members

- Reviewed proposed incoming members who introduced themselves and we unanimously voted everyone in
- Still have an open Assistant Treasurer role

Principle Update

Staffing Update

- Hired a 4th grade teacher who is an AB Graduate and he went to K/1 at Gates
 - IEP team lead who will work with Gates/Douglas
 - Multiple other changes in the district and additional openings at Gates
- 50th Anniversary Celebration
- All school meeting on June 6 each class will be putting things into the time capsule

- Looking for a date/time for a “treat” (anniversary celebration). Looking for PTO to contribute or a take away – Frisbee etc

Kindergarten Enrollment

- 17/18 in each class – enrollment is slightly lower in town

2018-2019 Budget Update

- We did not make as much on events this year as we have in years past
- Assuming an annual deficit of around \$4K for the year
- Others schools are experiencing a similar issue
- District pays 12 hours for assistants –
 - Gates has committed to 2 extra hours per assistant, which covers lunch and recess
 - This contribution also includes a math assistant
- How do we approach the parents? Send a note that outlines what the money is going to and why it’s important.

Events

- Silver Unicorn –May 24th story time and 20% from sales
- West Side Creamery – June 12th will give 15% of sales
- Activity Day
- Sixth Grade Send Off – We need to send a note to 5/4/3 parent to get volunteers to help

Discussion

- Update widget and location for where we are financially
- Send a note in beginning of the school year introducing the PTO and detailing why we raise money and how you can help
- Send an end of the year thank you note and ask for any additional donations
- Thank you to Jenn Smith for organizing Staff Appreciation Week, Ruby Bridges, and for the story teller