

BOYDEN PAC MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Tara Dwyer, PAC Chair opens the meeting at 7:00. Boyden School Principal, Brendan Dearborn in attendance as well as Dr. Bridget Gough, Superintendent of Walpole Public Schools.

1. Treasurer report presented by Tina Shaughnessy, Treasurer of Boyden PAC. Tina explained in full detail the expenses and income of the PAC starting with last year end of school year. Boyden PAC currently has a balance of \$24,682. Report was approved and seconded.
2. PAC website. Boyden currently uses "myschoolanywhere.com" to host our friendship directory. Myschoolanywhere has been bought out by "membershiptoolkit". Tara explained that all the information we kept on myschoolanywhere will be patched over to membershiptoolkit. Tara also suggested the PAC pay the full bill for the website this year. Motion was seconded and approved. Conversation about getting families to enroll on the website, suggestions of having an informational table at the upcoming Boyden Open house. Molly Cotter volunteered to maintain the new website.
3. School Supply Kit- Ali Lydon runs this. She has partnered with Staples to get a school supply kit for students to get supplies for a cheaper price. This year we sold less kits than in the year before but we made \$100 more than last year because we agreed for a small price increase. Ali has already agreed to run this program again next year
4. Direct Donation. A form has gone home with the family messenger concerning direct donations for the the Boyden PAC. This year donations can be made through Venmo.
5. BoxTops. Molly Cotter has organized the Box Tops for education collection in the past. This year Box Tops has gone completely digital and there is no longer a need to clip the physical boxtops- the app has a function to scan the BoxTops for credit. Conversation about having information about the app at Open house for families.
6. Running Club- Erica Burton. 55 students have signed up already. Usually the program has around 70-75 students participate. Running club will occur on Thursdays in October. Parent volunteers are needed and Erica explained no running is required by volunteers.
7. Fun Run- Kellee Senic. Boyden Fun Run will be held on November 2nd. 12 people have already registered. Kellee has booked Police, DJ. Conversation about having raffles held during Fun Run. Disney tickets may be raffled off during this event.
8. Monster Mash- Chrissa Kaselis runs this event. She was not able to make it to the meeting tonight but wanted to let everyone know that the Monster Mash is happening on October 25th which is a 1/2 day of school.
9. Mums Fundraiser during open house- Jen Barossi is running this. She has pre ordered the Mums and passed around a sheet looking for volunteers to help sell Mums during open house.
10. PAC Table at Open House- Tara would like to have an informational table during open house to explain to families how amazing the PAC is. Conversation about fliers with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Suggestion to have Chromebooks in the media center to allow families to enroll in the membershiptoolkit friendship directory.
11. Docent- Jill Texteria is here to explain the Docent program to the PAC. The docent program is an art program where in Parents hear lectures about art and go in to present the lecture to class. Many times the lectures have art projects that coincide with the artist the student is learning about. Jill explained the need for parent volunteers for the program to run successfully.

12. Cultural Arts- Shivaun Brenizer. No plans yet for any presentations. Mr. Dearborn has contacted a program called HiTouch/HiTech science to come in. This company has presentations catered to each grade and matches the standards set by the school.

13. Kari is here representing the Walpole School committee. Her statement is below.

14. Principal talk- Mr. Brendan Dearborn. Playground repair issues. Blue padded flooring is coming up where is it overused. They have patched it before. The nets are beginning to fray. Cost for just for the ground is \$4300. We could potentially use some grant money for the repair. Dearborn would like to vote about the floor repair. PAC agreed to repair but look into other options. ChildScape is the company that put the floor in. Great opening of the school year- Boyden has 348 students. Class size 17-20. Great size. 285 family messenger. School setting expectations for the beginning of the school year. Boyden is using the "Lucy Caulkins" writing program this year. Consultant working with teachers to teach them about this new writing program. Kids are doing a lot more writing this year. More writing about personal things, small moments in time and developing a writing skill. transform ELA curriculum. New staff, new reading department. new secretary. new VIP teacher, (10 students), new special educator. New counselor in the school for social emotional learning.

Close meeting 8:34

Kari Denitzio

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. As you will hear, we have a lot going on this year as a District this year, as always. The School Committee is dedicated to sharing information with the parents to keep you informed and to give you the opportunity to ask questions.

- As most of you know, we begin this year with many new administrators, some who have risen through the Walpole ranks and others from other districts. We believe that we have an exciting opportunity this year and hope to benefit from the new energy along with the solid foundation of faculty that has been cultivated over many years in Walpole.
- At Town Meeting this fall, RTMs will decide whether or not to move forward with a modified Fields project off of Route 1A in South Walpole. The specifics will not be available until mid September when construction bids are expected. But the project has been scaled back and some townwide fundraising will be needed.
- For the last 4+years, the WPS has been diligently working to address the needs of our aging middle schools with the goal to secure a significant amount of state funding to defray the cost. and we are now in the 2nd step of this process. As you may remember, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) accepted the Walpole School District's Statement of Interest for Bird Middle School into MSBA's Eligibility Period. The invitation includes consideration of Johnson Middle School for the potential consolidation of all students in grades 6-8 (only). MSBA will not support a separate project at JMS nor anything related to a high school project/renovation. Therefore, this is why you will hear future School Committee discussions about a

proposed middle school project. We will be seeking your input during the stages of this process. In December, we anticipate being invited into the Feasibility Study phase by the MSBA, which will examine potential solutions to the issues identified at the school facilities and will develop the most educationally appropriate and cost-effective preferred solution for MSBA consideration

- Although the MSBA did not invite the high school into the process, it is essential that we continue to find opportunities and avenues to assess the needs of Walpole High School, develop a plan to create functional spaces that support the 21st-century learning, and remain competitive in the educational landscape. WHS systems and basic structure underwent a major renovation in the early 2000s. Today, the essential needs are focused on educational and adaptable space. Some departments need flexible classrooms while others require new construction. This fall, the School Committee will ask Town Meeting members for funding to work with an architect to complete a building study. This will enable us to get further information about the cost related to structural and education facilities, such as the science classrooms, the gym, technology areas, music spaces, and special education. The purpose of this study is to identify the needs and determine the most appropriate and cost-effective solution for meeting those needs.

- For the last 8 years, Walpole has been doing some thoughtful financial planning through the annual debt budget and careful use of one-time money, which allows us to consider doing some of these fairly large projects, such as the high school, without raising taxes beyond the normal 2.5%. Whatever work is projected to be done with the Fields in South Walpole and at Walpole High School would be paid for in this way. There is no MSBA involvement or override. This is different from the MSBA middle school project because the cost of the middle school will most likely require a debt exclusion override. Therefore, in this case, our partnership with the State will be important.

- Lastly, you will hear more specifics from each Principal, but as a system, we will continue our focus on student safety, emotional health and social-emotional learning. It remains a priority for the School Committee and a few of the things that you should be aware of are:
 - a community discussion and viewing of "Screenagers" (a documentary on cell phone usage and its effects on kids) on Thursday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m.
 - A presentation from School Resource Officers on Critical Incident Response at Boyden on Monday, September 16.
 - A parent's guide to School Safety **tentatively set for 10/15**
 - a community meeting focused on raising teenagers and the importance of being aware of trends related to drugs, alcohol, vaping and other relevant trends
 - a survey about school climate, student leadership, anti-bullying and supportive school environments
 - an effort to develop a long-range community group that can bring parents, school representatives, police, health professionals and all interested citizens together to promote healthy discussions around raising strong, empathetic, resilient, kind and genuine children and young adults. Check out Spark Kindness in Natick if you want a preview.

We will provide information for PAC meetings each month . Ideally, we are looking for one or two people from each of the PACs to stay in touch with us each month so that you can receive these updates. For those of you have been involved in PACs in the past, we used to call this the Government Affairs liaison. If anyone is willing to serve in this role, please let me and the PAC chair know.