

Bement Parents' Association Open Meeting Notes

January 16, 2012

Present: Sara Harvey, Lee Rubeck, Terri Mayrand, Meg Clark, Diana Stiles and 7 parents

1. **Old Business: *Skating & Basketball Party*** - Crowd seemed larger than last year (no Patriots game to conflict with this year). There are still ways to improve awareness of this event the week before. Possibility of issuing an invitation of some sort. Discussed possibility of changing the time of this event; 4-7pm is late for little ones on a school night, and makes it even later if you are on clean-up duty. Also discussed possibility of a "Skate Swap" prior to the event, possibly the Friday before the event.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance of \$17,964.81. Expenses: Dartmouth Aires (-\$750); Police (-\$81.40 partial payment, Fall Bazaar). Income: School Store (+\$912.91); Hillside Pizza (+744); GoodSearch (+\$5.34); Lands' End (+106.92); Sterling Name Tape. Ending balance of \$18,915.98. Discussed re-sending the various "Easy Ways" to support the PA into the Look Ahead one at a time.
Note: Due to the fact that there is no Spring Fing Auction, which had a separate account, the PA balance sheet will continue to increase beyond its traditional maximum levels as we raise funds towards our end-of-the-year donation to Bement.

3. **School Store:** Store opened in December the same day as the Jackson Tea, as many parents would already be on-campus that day. Thank you to the many parents who helped with set-up, sales and clean-up! Store was opened in the old Dining Room, so that access would be more convenient for parents than the Polk Building. Sales were \$700, plus additional holiday sales from individuals & alumni.
 New blazer patches arrived, but were incorrect fabric and are currently being resewn. Error was not at our end, so company is re-doing at their expense.

4. **New Business: *Bracelets for the DR*** - Alumni group is selling bracelets to support La Suiza and have requested permission to sell at PA events. They are welcome to sell & the PA feels the students' presence is important for their successful sales.
Sports Gear - Sara has been researching several companies who provide package deals for ordering logo'd sportswear, following a recommendation by a parent. This company would let us choose a specific number of items to be logo'd, and would then create a flyer so folks could order these items. Also provides a web store for the length of the school year with these same items. Apparel would not include sport-specific logos (more of an upper school issue.) There are various perks to each company reviewed. Officers will discuss and try to determine the quality & ease of offering this for next fall.
Golf Scramble - Discussed possibility of holding an adult golf-scramble to coincide with Mini-Golf in April. Looking to offer a "dads" type of social event for the community. Would look to tap into families who golf to organize. Is there a way to incorporate the Korean dads who golf ('simultaneous' event, etc?)

5. **Upcoming Events: *Winter/Spring Hillside Pizza order*** - 5th grade sells pizzas for Nature's Classroom in February. PA should hold another in spring term - easy to coordinate and earnings are cumulative so we would earn a higher return with the next orders. Considering

offering this on a more regular basis. Many schools offer it once a month.

Dancing Fundraiser/Amie Keddy - Amie attended an event where guests bought a ticket and received 1 hour of dancing instruction then 2 hours of dancing. She wondered if there was a way to turn this fun event into a Bement function. Discussed whether it would be parents-only, or parent & child. Could tap into local dance resources, i.e. UMass, KDS. Would something more contemporary than ballroom dance be more appealing, especially to kids? Decided to pursue a hip-hop themed dance event for late spring, if possible.

A parent raised a concern that without the Auction evening there isn't a "parents-only" event this year, which is an aspect some parents appreciated about the Auction. PA's plans for this year were to expand the family events offered, and did include an adult event which unfortunately ended up with complications that prevented us from actually holding it. Several other possibilities have been discussed by the Officers throughout the fall, and several were brought up here & by other parents, but without anyone stepping forward to organize such an event it most likely won't happen.

Spring Fling Fair - Looking to create a bigger, better Carnival atmosphere. Fun Run in morning, t-shirts (design contest?), music. Fair is Saturday, April 28th. Sara will meet with Peter & Beth Melnik in the coming weeks. Coinciding with Spring Fling will be the 10-Item Raffle and the 5K Coming Your Way Tuition Raffle. Winning tickets will be drawn at the Fair.

6. **10-Item Raffle:** Looking at the 10 best items from previous Auctions/raffles. Already have Red Sox tickets and a fine-art lamp for this. Meg to work on ticket design & discuss permitting questions for both auctions with Ken.
7. **5K Coming Your Way:** Meg Clark & Jane Plager are chairing this event. Working on confirming that we can expand the tuition prize to ANY tuition-paying school, so that we can expand our ticket sales to alumni, 9th grade, preschool, etc. Winners \$5000 would be paid directly to that school - it is not a cash award to the family. Save-the-Date info on both raffles will go home prior to March break, and ticket sales will begin in April. We expect to sell tickets 2 days a week on campus, and then the entire week prior to the Fair. Question was raised if the Tuition Raffle reaches 100 tickets, will they sell more? Answer is 'no' - once the Tuition Raffle sells 100 tickets, it is closed. If we are able to meet the 100 ticket ceiling this year, we would consider raising both the number of tickets sold and the winnings if we feel we could sell more tickets.
8. **New Events:** Follow-up to discussion of "no Auction." Sara encouraged folks to think about new events, but also emphasized that new events need to have Chairperson/people. Those who are interested in a new event should talk with their friends and encourage people who are excited about certain kinds of events to take the initiative and become a chairperson. It's a great way to meet parents and make connections at Bement.

Next Executive Committee Meeting will be:

Friday, February 24 at 8:15am
in the Middle Dining Room