

Bement Parents' Association

Open Meeting Notes

September 16, 2011

- 1. Welcome:** Those present were welcomed to the meeting by Sara Harvey, P'15, President. The primary goal of the Bement Parents' Association (BPA) is to support the school and enhance the sense of community and school spirit, provide educational events. Fundraising is to support these events and the school, but is not a primary goal of the BPA. Our goal is to seek to build community and foster a strong sense of belonging to the school in a way that families are able to balance their home & school lives. Kids are excited to see their parents involved with the school, and in that sense we hope to make volunteering accessible and comfortable for parents. Many volunteer opportunities may seem daunting, folks may feel they need to be involved start-to-finish, however we hope to have volunteers be comfortable with shorter periods of time, to make sure events have specific time & task designations and specific contact people for volunteers. We hope volunteers will feel that one hour is just as valuable as 2 hours, and follow the 'many hands makes light work' philosophy. As Rich Winnick stated, "America might run on Dunkin' but Bement runs on volunteers."
- 2. Introductions:** President, Sara Harvey, P'15; Vice President, Lee Rubeck, P'15 & '17; Treasurer, Terri Mayrand, P'12 & '15; Meg Clark, Secretary, P'17; Alice Patton, Parent Representative, P'16 & '18. Other members of the meeting also introduced themselves. In total there were 18 people in attendance, including the Officers of the BPA.
- 3. PA Events:** We have decided to make some changes to some of the BPA's traditional events. Many more families have working parents, and some of the larger events were both labor- and volunteer-intensive and truly stretched folks to their limits of volunteerism. We are introducing some new events which we hope will spark interest and draw more people to being involved with the BPA. Some of these new events are in need of chairpeople; feel free to find a partner or friend for your volunteer opportunities.

Some of the events in need of an organizer are: Family Movie Event (Dolphin Tale, 10/1), Dean's Beans coffee orders, a family Mini-Golf event (an on-campus fundraiser, which would include some solicitation for hole sponsorships). Cressey Janko & Sara Riddington then volunteered to chair the February Food Drive, which was much appreciated.

All BPA events are listed on the Bement website (under "For Parents") and will also be listed in the Family Directory. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please complete the Volunteer Form (also available under the Events section) and return it to the BPA mailbox, located in the Admission Building's mailroom (to the right, after you enter; mailboxes are on the back wall.)

Barnes & Noble Bookfair: We are holding a book fair at B&N on December 3rd. This will be able to be supported by friends & families anywhere in the country, by providing a code for Bement's book fair to them. Question was raised if it was possible to have Bement's code automatically be plugged in at checkout if they travelled there from our link.

Tuition Raffle: This will be held again this year, and we are looking in to how to expand it so that anyone may enter and the winnings would be applied to their school tuition, whatever

school they may attend (private high school, college, etc.).

Spring Fling: the Spring Fling Auction will not exist as it has in the past. We will replace it with a 10-item raffle, after evaluating what the very best 10 items of last year's raffle and auction were and seeking out similar prizes. The Auction as it was required much too much time & labor on everyone's behalf, which made it a very intimidating event to recruit new volunteers as well. Even though this event did raise a significant amount of funds, we are looking this year to raise similar funds through several parent/family events that are of wider appeal and participation.

- 4. Closing:** We are always open to comments, suggestions, and volunteers. Please contact any of the Officers, or your Class Representative at any time with your thoughts. Or, you may always contact the BPA via email at bementpa@gmail.com. The list of Officers, Class Representatives and Events will also be available in the Family Handbook, which you will receive in October.

Thank you for joining us today!