

## BVPO Meeting January 9, 2017

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Ben Temple, President, welcomed everyone. The following members were present - Ben Temple, Heidi Grigsby, Kelly Fenley, Amy Birney, Victoria Palacios, George Bosch, Gretchen Ruddick, Lisa Kovacevic, Nicole Wilson, Deana, Ben Gese, Heidi Gese, Leah, Melissa Ibarra, Autumn Christopherson, Tiffany Wright, Colby Hueling, Amy Potter

**OPEN POSITIONS:** Ben mentioned the open positions including Library Volunteer Coordinator, Bilingual Reps, and Vice President. Next month we will discuss open positions for next year. Fundraising and Amity Intern Coordinator are two critical positions that need filled.

***Motion to Approve December Minutes:*** A motion was made to approve the December minutes and there was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve. ***Resolved*** – The December Meeting Minutes were approved.

**FUNDRAISING** - Ben covered the fundraising update for April and Elizabeth. *Papa's Pizza Coupon* Sales are from January 10th thru the 17th. This is an important fundraiser. They are not doing role in the dough - doing a video game bus. If you sell 20 sheets of coupons, you automatically get in. Students who sell one or more sheets get raffle tickets for a raffle to go on bus. There are a lot of value in the coupons, which expire in August. *Subasta Latina* is February 24 at the Holiday Inn at Gateway. Deanna is head of the silent auction procurement team and they need more stuff so think of things you could do to help with the auction. There is a poster near the office that has items that are needed - pick a flower petal and bring that item for the auction. February 1 is the deadline for auction items. Ticket reservations are through April Colgrove and checks can be dropped in the BVPO drop box or in the office. If you are volunteering the entire time, they will pay for your meal. There was a question about platters - Gretchen is in charge of platters and she has volunteers who are coordinating with teachers to make them.

**AMITY INTERNS** - Lisa provided the update. Subasta is big fundraiser for Amity. We need to look forward to next year and determine if we want 5 interns. We need to put in our request this month and then begin gathering host families. Lisa was as planning on meeting with Melissa but weather delays resulted in email correspondence about the program. One of the supervising teachers wrote that although the program is always evolving, the Amity program it is part of our culture and assists with teaching. Lisa

inquired about dropping down to 4 interns, but the feedback was that particularly with the addition of a third 5th grade, 5 interns would be preferable. A primary teacher commented that the reading and cultural support from the interns is invaluable. It is hard for the BVPO to know if it is worth the money, but it sounds like from the teachers that it is a valuable resource and five is still a good number. The question is whether the BVPO supports five interns for next year. Last year they requested \$34,550. There were questions about who sets amount that the interns get paid. The amount was set two years ago by the prior coordinators - it is \$450 a month for each intern x 10 months. There is also a recruiting fee and we pay for cell phones for each intern. The stipend amount was reached by trying to determine what the interns need to not be a burden on their families. It is higher than the minimum set by Amity (about \$200) but Amity has been raising the minimum each year and we have not raised ours over the last couple of years. The interns have indicated the stipend is enough and it also makes us competitive. It would be hard to lower it now. Those present at the meeting expressed support for the program and the cultural impact. Many encouraged continued meetings with teachers to make sure we are using the interns effectively. One question was - are we concerned about money? We have cancelled Artists in Residence and many noted that while this is the biggest expenditure, it has significant benefit. Many PTOs are fundraising to pay salaries for EAs or teachers. We get more for our \$\$ through this program. Lisa noted that the issue is not only money - we need host families and other support to sustain this program. There is a lot that goes into making this successful. There are definitely difficulties finding host families. Need to make sure everyone is on board. Host families must be affiliated with the school. Overall, all seemed in support of the program. Given the small meeting (likely due to weather/school cancellation) while tacit approval was given, the formal approval will be in February.

**LA FIESTA CULTURAL** is March 17 and it is at the Hult Center. There was some confusion because Beauty and the Beast is also that night but it is in the small theater. Fiesta is in the big room. Committee is working on Fiesta, but they will need help day of to get people there. Teachers may also need assistance. Look for requests for volunteers. There will be parking fees this year. Someone asked whether there be a flower sale and dinner. Fiesta is not a fundraiser but there is a bucket for donations. The dinner and flowers done by 5th graders for the end of year celebration. Those parents will send out that information. The dinner will not be at the Hult Center.

**SCHOOL AFFAIRS** - Heidi presented and reminded everyone that it is school choice time and they will need parents to conduct school tours. Melissa picked times to try and serve a variety of parents and coordinated with Sheldon area. Heidi will meet with Melissa to discuss talking points.

*Holiday Break Food Drive* - Melissa provided the update. The food was packed by Sydney Koh and her husband on a day with a two day delay and then, school was closed due to hazardous weather. Melissa and Perla arranged a pick up and delivery with the families. Overall there were a lot of food donations. Ben reminded everyone that we are doing a backpack food drive every Friday. Ben raised the issue of the Spring Break Food Drive and whether we want to do that this year - what is needed is enthusiastic volunteers. Spring break is the 27th-31st. Sydney and Victoria are both willing to work on it again. The electronic signup worked well. Those present strongly supported doing the food drive over Spring Break.

*OBOB* - Ben told the group that the competitions are set up for January 30 and Feb 2, 6 and 9. The final battle is Feb 17 - need to solidify that time. The OBOB swim is scheduled in April. There are 33 teams and 156 kids participating - the largest group so far.

The 5th graders have a graduation experience that is evolving. Last year was the first time we put resources towards it - transitioning from Costa Rica to experience for the entire class. There is discussion of theater workshop on a Thursday in Spanish and on Friday go to camp Harlow. Next years 5th graders will need to decide what they want to do. This is something that is growing and folks will need to consider what they want to do in the future.

The back to school ice cream social was discussed - maybe we need to take a more proactive approach to it and include information about the BVPO, grade level reps and volunteers needed, and events. Maybe also have merchandise orders. We may discuss this more at BVPO in April and May. The BVPO used to do that. Another place to do that is the kinder roundup. Melissa mentioned having high schoolers at the ice cream social to connect with incoming students and as volunteers. But, that is a very busy time for high schoolers.

This is the first year that the Costa Rica trip has been out on their own. Tammy, the leader, indicated it has been successful but it has been a lot of work. They are their own 501(c)(3) and done multiple fundraisers. They have 8 kids going. Ben would like to hear thoughts about wishing students who are going on Costa Trip well at Fiesta.

**PRINCIPAL & STAFF UPDATE** - We have only had 7 instructional days and 6 weather days since the December BVPO meeting. Everyone is really looking forward to coming back to school. The District will not call weather delays until the morning, so we have to be flexible. Hopefully the weather will not interfere with Family Nights - Math Night in January, Science and Engineering Night in April and Bingo night in May. The Family Nights are

in the Cafeteria from 6-7 and they have different kits like, for Math Night, math games around the world for everyone to play.

In terms of Immersion, Dr. Balderas is looking for all immersion programs to articulate what curriculum they are using and what their goals are. Back in November or October, a task force formed that started with administrators, then teachers were added, and now adding high school and middle school in order to get a better idea of what the program is. The end goal is for the district to invest money for teachers to get together, but we need to find out if board will approve money for this. It is about time to wrap up first semester. A new science kit will be started next month. There is a potential opening for next year but the state also has a budget deficit. In terms of School Choice, they are receiving applications and there are still people on the waitlist from the year. The way the lottery works - the first person on list is who we have to take regardless of grade. There was a question about 5th grade next year when it goes to 3 classes. Right now, there is one Spanish teacher and one English only teacher and the students switch (spend 50% with each). The question was - what happens when we add a third teacher. Melissa acknowledged that in perfect world, we would have 2 Spanish-speaking teachers. It would also be great to get budget earlier so we can post earlier and find the Spanish-speaking teachers before other schools snap them up. If we have all three Spanish teachers, it allows them share workload and really be able to prep science, social studies, and writing. Rotating teachers for certain subjects allows teachers to focus on core subjects. Other grade levels are considering doing it. There was a question raised as to whether there was anything parents can do to push recruiting so we don't end up with English only teachers. Melissa explained that all of the immersion programs have expressed it to the elementary and secondary directors and are hoping something sticks. The teachers here are very vocal - they advocating for our Spanish language program. Teachers want to have things in Spanish. Bottom line on recruiting is we need to wait for budget.