

**Buena Vista Parent Organization Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2016**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Ben Temple, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions. The following members signed in: Ben Temple, Kari Kokkler (2nd Grade teacher) ,George Bosch, April Colgrove, Harmony Wilkins, Heidi Gese, Ben Gese, Victoria Palacios Cronin, Victoria Sanguino (Kindergarten teacher), Mo Young, Amy Birney, Melissa Ibarra (Principal), Ashley LaVelle, Matt LaVelle, Coleen Hudson, Gail Spinks, Nicole Wilson, Lisa Kovacevic, Sydney Koh, Colby Huling, Traci Campbell, Meredith Baker (1st Grade teacher), Carmelita Bradley (5th Grade teacher), Beatriz Downes (3rd Grade teacher), Heidi Grigsby

Ben reminded the group about current openings including Vice President, ENews Coordinator, and Library Volunteer Coordinator.

Ben gave out a Holiday mix tape to Heidi Grigsby because she has attended the most BVPO meetings.

Motion to Approve October and November Minutes – A motion was made to approve the October and November minutes. There was a second. A vote was called. A majority present voted to approve.

Resolved - The October and November Minutes were approved

SCHOOL AFFAIRS: Victoria presented about the holiday food baskets and asked for assistance getting the word out for the boxes. She suggested using the Thanksgiving list, but it was decided that an announcement would go out. Melissa agreed to send on Remind. A teacher present indicated some families are not getting electronic notifications, so it might be helpful to have paper copies for teachers to distribute to everyone. There is sign up genius for the food. Don't bring fresh produce until the 14th. Food packing will occur on the 14th (both afternoon and evening session) and pick up will be planned for the 16th. Contact Sydney and Victoria or look at sign up genius to sign up to pack.

Next week is Spirit Week – the information has gone out through Remind.

AMITY PROGRAM: Lisa did not have any updates for this year but they are starting to plan for next year. In January and February, Amity asks us to apply for interns. They will meet with Melissa to decide how many interns to request and will request budget approval in January for probably 5 interns. In January-February, they will also start looking for host families. The interns have stepped up to find transportation. They have a list of people to contact.

FUNDRAISING: April went over some of the fundraisers we have had already this year including Jog-a-Thon which raised about 20k, the dinners out (Chipotle – 700, Papas – 1500, Wild Duck – 250) and the Photo Pancake breakfast. The next big fundraiser is Papa’s Pizza Coupons which last year raised 8k. January 3-13th, April and Elizabeth will come in and explain the fundraiser to the kids. There were some discussions about the rewards that have been used in the past including Roll in the Dough (students who sold a certain number of sheets got to roll in \$1 bills and keep them). The leadership team at the school indicated it is very difficult excluding certain kids and explaining it. Melissa expressed concerns and wondered if there was another way to honor fundraising. The leadership team is meeting and will try to strategize some alternatives.

Subasta Latina which is a dinner and auction is happening February 24. Ticket sales start tomorrow – it is \$40 a person and if you want to sit with someone, you need to request it. The hope is to raise 40k which will be split between two years. It is a great community night and the BVPO hopes teachers will be there. The BVPO will pay for teachers and guests. It includes dinner, wine and beer.

There was a question about the platters. The platters are made by each class. Parent volunteers contact the teachers and set up a time to come in and help students make the platter.

There was a question about whether there is any plan for people who cannot afford to attend. There is limited seating (200) and we fill up at the ticket price. \$40 a person pays for all the food and venue – there is only about \$5 left over. We would need to know a month in advance that they were coming and someone is paying for them. We want to encourage people to attend but the ultimate goal is to raise as much money as possible. Some people spend a significant amount of money but not everyone has to spend that. There are \$10 options. People raised other suggestions about how to structure the event differently to make it cheaper, more inclusive. The conclusion was that at this point, it would be difficult to do that for the event already scheduled for the 24th, but parents in the future can create a different type of event. There are other events that are more inclusive at the school.

BV’s SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT- Angie was not able to make it but an email will go out on the garden, solar panels, and composting. Some push back from 4J about solar panels even though we received 100k grant. It is procedural process.

LIBRARY AND BOOK FAIR: Book Fair is now and goes until Friday. Grands Day is Friday. There are a few spots open for Book Fair volunteers. A question was raised as to whether the students were told grandparents can stay but kids need to go to class. There was confusion last year on grandparents’ day. They will give friendly reminders.

LUNES LUMINOSO'S FATE: Several parents had asked about the absence of lunes luminoso and whether there a school wide recognition opportunity. Some present felt that the school wide assembly is important to the culture of the school and thought it was missed. Also, parents were able to attend and see their child recognized and then have social and coffee hour. Melissa explained that she met with leadership team at the end of last year and looked at space (we don't all fit in one spot) and loss of instruction and determined the assemblies, which were very repetitive, involved a small space and resulted in many behavior issues because of the length, needed to be reconsidered. The leadership team has not said we are not doing this, but they looked at other ways to recognize students. The principal gives the awards over the intercom on Monday and awards are on the bulletin board. Students are still being recognized and we have also added attendance awards – perfect attendance. They are trying to change the culture to be more focused. One teacher present indicated that she thinks the students are more motivated because they are monthly awards – this is someone who worked hard for an entire month not just a week. One parent commented that she would like to see more fun and community. Another teach indicated that they do recognize the need for boosters or assemblies and their value for teaching important skills, but the needs of K-2 and 3-5 are very different. In January, there will be a booster or assembly on being a good friend. The team agrees something to build togetherness but Lunes Luminoso is not the answer. A parent present wanted parent involvement in assemblies. Another parent suggested a return of the coffee chats. They were discontinued because there just were not enough people to make it work and it was becoming cliquish. Now that the school is bigger if someone wants to volunteer to lead, maybe they should return.

4J PARENT LEADERSHIP MEETING REPORT: Ashley presented on the group which involves parent leaders from the district. At the last one, the superintendent indicated there was a commitment to fully fund immersion which had not been said in a while. There was also a round table which talked about how we get more people involved and delegate more responsibility. The next meeting involves making meetings matter including topics like how to maximize efficiency and having difficult conversations and getting new parent volunteers. Ben noted that Mo Young is the volunteer appreciation coordinator and is brainstorming how to get more involvement.

SITE COUNCIL: Amy presented the update. There were lot of things discussed at Site Council many of which have been touched on here or Melissa will discuss. They are working on new EEF grants. Amy also thanked the teachers for being here – it is nice change and it is good for groups to support each other.

PRINCIPAL & STAFF UPDATE: Melissa indicated that BV finished up with data review and looking at how to change instruction. For the first time in 20 years, there is a new science curriculum and teachers will be using the second kit at semester. Our teacher are leaders in science and next year BV will have three science kits. For Math, last month there was an open house on two curriculums. Hopefully, the adoption will be announced in the next couple weeks. The students have been taught the 8 thinking maps and now BV is looking at how the thinking maps can be incorporated and how do the students show their thinking

Don't forget - Family math night is Jan 20 at 6pm and Science night is April 11 at 6pm.

We will be embarking on school choice next month. Melissa would like a trifold that demonstrates what is happening at BV to display at the Saturday event in January at district office. If folks want to help at the event, let Melissa know.

There was a question asked about BizTown – whether parents had been told and whether there could be a discussion at another time. Also, whether there were alternatives that could be added. George will be coming in and doing Junior Achievement for 5 hours. This program is much more age appropriate and will take away less instruction time. BizTown not created for elementary school and simply took away too much instruction.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY BVPO: If you have proposals for January, let Ben know.

Adjourned.