

INTRODUCTION

Tim Bruegman, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions. The following people were in attendance (not all last names included)

Tim Bruegman (President), Lisa Kovacevic (Amity Coordinator), Amy Peterson (K Rep), Erin Couture (4th G rep), Sydney Koh (4th G rep), Kelly Fenley (2nd G rep), Amber Saiz (K rep), Tiffany, Sam, Natalie Scott (5th G rep), Chad Smith, Lisa Hicks, John, Linda, Heidi, Laura, Sophia, George Brosch, Gretchen Ruddick (Amity Coordinator), Sarah White, Dan Howard (1st G rep), Kim Darden (volunteers), Jennifer, Gina, Deborah Havel (communications- website), Amy Birney (communications-e-news), Ben Temple (site council), Sarah McKee (site council), Elaine Repogle (5th G rep), Todd Grigsby (treasurer), April Colgrove (fundraising), Stacey, Leah, Juan Cuadros (principal)

A list of BVPO board members and volunteers was provided and is available on the website at www.bvpo.org

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

The approval of the June minutes was tabled until next month. September and June will be approved in October. Minutes are available on the website at www.bvpo.org

AMITY UPDATE

Lisa Kovacevic provided an update on the Amity program.

Amity is a program that brings teachers from Spanish speaking countries to BV to work as assistant teachers in grades 1-5. BVPO funds the program and it is the largest program BVPO fundraises for (approximately 30k annually). Ten families agree to host the interns (each intern is hosted by two different families over the school year). This year we have three interns from Columbia and two from Spain (both named Marta). For the first semester, one intern will be assigned to each grade (1-5) and will work with all teachers in that grade and get integrated into the classrooms. At the semester, the interns will switch grades. This is different from how the program was handled in the past. Kindergarten is not provided an Amity intern because the district funds educational assistants (EA) for kindergarten. The website will hopefully be updated soon with pictures and information.

TREASURER UPDATE

Todd Grigsby provided the treasurer update.

Todd is the new treasurer. He provided two handouts at the meeting – a detailed approved budget from August 2015 and an update for September. Transparency is

the key. To make it easier for analysis at BVPO meetings, Todd will be using excel to present budget information but he is also willing to make the QuickBooks available for the entire budget or for separate program areas for anyone to examine. The budget can be difficult to understand because there are things that cross over from school year to school year.

Todd explained the September budget. Each area has a previously approved budget. Each area has a “budget owner” who is a board member that heads up the committee/spending arm and is the responsible party. Todd reminded everyone that it is important to remember that the Board must approve all expenses. The Treasurer simply disperses previously approved expenditures. Todd will meet with any group to explain the budget.

The general categories on the budget are as follows:

- Administrative - liability insurance, CPA expenses, mailbox etc. (Note: a parent often donates CPA time, meaning that money is not spent)
- Fiesta – donations are received so costs are covered in part or in full
- School affairs
- Amity
- Artists in Residence
- Library
- Teacher peer development
- Classroom grants - teachers have received the money approved last year and we are awaiting reports from how it is spent
- AntiBullying – this program was approved but we need to hear more about what it is before actually spending the money
- BizTown – this is a program that has been typically provided every other year to 4th and 5th graders. It provides students information on practical information on money and jobs. It culminates in a trip to Portland to a mock city where the students practice what they learn. This may become a yearly expense because the size of the 4th and 5th grade is growing and we may no longer be able to provide a combined program.

This year we have 69,595 allotted to spend. In addition to a rainy day fund (15k), which is considered necessary to cover any emergency expenditures/ cover expenses in a poor fundraising year, there is approximately 20-25k that has rolled over from prior years that should be considered. The rollover is a result of fundraising slightly more than needed in any given year. After a discussion, a plan was made to form a committee to discuss the best uses for that money. Right now there are two checking accounts and a money market account but we earn very little interest. We could invest the other money or spend it on a large expenditure/capital expense. There was also a mention that we could reduce fundraising but the concern was that the lack of momentum could be problematic in the future.

Several members present volunteered to serve on the committee (Tiffany, Kin, Autumn, Gina, Jennifer, Sam and Sophia) and Principal Juan Cuadros requested that he and potentially the staff be involved in discussions regarding appropriate expenditures. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Todd Grigsby. The committee will meet and present the options to the Board at a future meeting.

There was a question about how translation costs were being paid. The district has traditionally absorbed that cost but follow up will be done to verify that.

Todd raised the issue of needing approval for signature changes for the existing bank accounts and requested a vote.

VOTE

Todd proposed that Kori Travis be added as a signatory to BVPO Account #11.

A motion was made.
It was seconded.

A vote was called. The majority of those present agreed and no opposition was noted.

Resolution: On September 14, 2015, the BVPO voted to approved adding Kori Travis as a signatory to BVPO Account #11

Todd proposed that Enda Pierce be removed as a signatory to all BVPO Accounts.

A motion was made.
It was seconded.

A vote was called. The majority of those present agreed and no opposition was noted.

Resolution: On September 14, 2015, the BVPO voted to remove Enda Pierce as a signatory on all BVPO Accounts

REVIEW OF 2015-2016 CALENDAR

A draft calendar was provided to alert everyone to upcoming events. A final calendar will be available on the BVPO website soon and many of the dates are already there! (www.bvpo.org)

Two days were highlighted – Monday and Friday. Monday is going to be school spirit day. Kids are encouraged to wear BV gear. Monday is also the day for the monthly assemblies. We have contracted with a company for new shirts and sweatshirts. Parents will be able to order from the website during a designated period. There will be an order in the Fall and another in the Spring. This will raise money for the BVPO. Fridays will be Higher Education Friday and kids will be encourage to wear gear related to post-high school plans – college (not just the Ducks!), careers etc.

Every other Wednesday will be the E-News – look for an email that details what is happening with the PTO.

BVPO is typically the second Monday from 6:30-8:00 and Site Council is typically on the first Wednesday

Some key dates:

September 30 - Jog-a-thon

October 1 - Curriculum Night – Oct 1

October 8 - School Carnival – October 8

October 28-30 - School Conferences

November – Thanksgiving Baskets

December – Book Fair and Food Drive

January – School Showcase

February – Fiesta and OBOB

March – Spring Break Food Drive

May – BV Staff Appreciation

June - Staff appreciation brunch, Field Day and 5th grade promotion

SCHOOL AFFAIRS UPDATE

The school affairs committee is made up of parent representatives from each grade level who communicates with the parents in those grades about BVPO and other events. They also put on the carnival. All the reps are listed on the BVPO website.

They are still looking for bilingual representatives for the grades. This will help with translations because sometimes the information needs to go out quickly and the formal translation process can take 1-2 weeks.

Carnival is October 8 from 6-8pm. Sydney and Erin are in charge. There will be a suggested donation to cover costs (last year it was \$5 per family). This is a fun family event (not a fundraiser) There will be many volunteer opportunities. Look for emails from your class representatives.

SCHOOL SPIRIT UPDATE

Kristin White is the school spirit coordinator. She was not present but Tim

announced that this will be an effort to coordinate activities like the school spirit days (Mondays), University/Post-graduation days (Friday), a spirit week (more information will be coming) and a social dance. Juan thanked Kristin for taking this on.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

April Colgrove is coordinating fundraising.

She discussed the themes of fundraising for BVPO: there is no expectation that every family will get involved in every fundraiser during the year. The focus is to try and find fundraising opportunities for things you would buy anyway and for fundraisers that have a big return for the school. The goal is typically about 70k of fundraising a year. With 428 students, that means the goal is to raise about \$163 per student.

This year there is no Subasta which is the auction that is held every other year to raise money for BVPO. The money from Subasta is spent over the two-year period.

Jog-a-thon is September 30th. Last year it raised about 26k. This year there will be a BBQ lunch provided with the Jog-a-thon (Parents can eat for \$4, students pay the regular lunch cost). It is a great event. The students run at the Sheldon track. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Last year Juan provided incentives for the students (he eventually had to eat worms!) and is working on incentives for this year. Watch for information in e-new and in your student's backpack

There are two new potential fundraisers – Holiday pictures at BV (pay to have your holiday pictures here to support BVPO) and a coin drive. More information will be coming soon.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

E-news is the bi-weekly update and Amy Birney coordinates it. It comes out in English and Spanish. It is typically sent on Wednesday which is also when key paperwork is usually sent home. Amy will be reaching out to get information on upcoming events. Email her if you have information for her (the earlier the better because of the need to have it translated!) Don't forget to update your email with the office.

WEBSITE

Deb Havel has developed and maintains the new BVPO website (www.bvpo.org). This is the best source of information. There is also a link to the school website. Deb will work on links to Facebook.

SITE COUNCIL UPDATE

Site Council is a group of parents, staff, and teachers (elected by their peers) that

works with the principal to work on school issues including curriculum, staffing, budgets and instruction. Ben Temple and Sarah McKee are the parent site council representatives.

Artists in Residence is a program funded by BVPO (12k) and overseen by Site Council to bring in artists to work with the children. Rich Glauber is the current artist in residence and he is doing music and art. Other instructors will do fiddle, dance and Latino instruments for 4 weeks each. Rich has requested that there not be a performance at the end of his session because it is counterproductive (because most parents have seen it before and the focus is then on the performance). Juan C. noted that this program is exceptional and initially, the performances were scheduled to evaluate and encourage fundraising. Now it is clear the students are getting great things out of the program, so a performance is not necessary. A schedule of the classes will be provided to all parents so they can drop in and observe if they want to (look for it on the website). Because it was never part of the agreement that a performance be done, no vote was required for this change.

Ben Temple specifically noted that Tiffany Wright has spent hundreds of hours getting the library ready. There is no librarian (it is unfunded) so the library depends on parent volunteers. Teachers will eventually send out requests for volunteers so look for possible library slots.

Sarah McKee noted that Site Council works on grants to fund certain projects. The Eugene Education Fund (EEF) has \$500 and \$2000 grants available for schools (up to \$5000 for any school). The grant requests need to go in at the end of October or the beginning of November (final date will be announced soon). BV has typically gotten a grant to purchase books for the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) competition for 3rd-5th graders. In OBOB students form teams, read books and then compete in trivia contests. They are looking for other suggestions. One suggestion was to try and fund BizTown (described above). It may be necessary to start doing BizTown every year as class size increases. Any grant money must help the entire school. Any suggestions should be sent to Lisa. She and Maura Fields will draft the grant applications.

PRINCIPAL & A STAFF UPDATE

Principal Juan Cuadros welcomed everyone back. He is convinced this is going to be one of the best school years ever. There are 428 students enrolled and a robust waitlist. He has not opened the waitlist because he is waiting for enrollment to settle. This is great because just four years ago there were only 275 children enrolled and there was angst about enrollment. We are right where we should be.

The big change this year is full day kindergarten. Now the kindergarteners are participating in all the activities including lunch which has led to a rescheduling of

the lunch period for all grades – there are two lunch blocks: 11-1150 and 12-1250.

Juan thinks it is important for parents to go meet with the new superintendent and ask him what his vision is for immersion programs. The currently scheduled meetings are Weds the 16th from 5-630 check and Tues Sept 22 from 7-830am at 200 N Monroe

One remaining concern is the parking lot. The morning is going fairly well but the afternoon is a challenge. Juan asks parents to please let other parents know if they are not following the drop off/pick up rules.

A question was raised about getting a turn signal onto Queens Way. The City is responsible and there was discussion about potentially approaching the City about this issue. Juan reminded everyone that if you live in the Sheldon region (which is 80% of the school) there is a bus available.

Smarter Balance assessment results from last year will be coming out soon (both group and individual). We did not hit the required percentage of students taking the test so the results are considered invalid and this could affect funding.

OTHER

Tim noted that thanks to a grant from the Pape Family Foundation the gym have received new adjustable basketball hoops to replace the fixed 10' hoops which will make it easier for all students to play basketball

Adjourned at 8:20pm