

BVPO MEETING – May 8, 2017

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Ben Temple welcomed everyone. The following members and teachers were present: Ben Temple, Colby Huling, Tiffany Wright, Victoria Palacios, Amy Peterson, Ebba Corleto, Keri Pape, Sydney Koh, Amy Potter, Sam Tazul, Sarah Garcia, Nicole Wilson, Heidi Gese, Ben Gese, Heidi Grigsby, Elena Ambrocio, Judith Vargas, Kelly Fenley, Natalie Scott, Loren Scott, Melissa Ibarra, Carmelita Bradley, Amy Birney, Gail Spinks, April Colgrove, Jorge Bosch, Todd Grigsby, Abraham Rincon, Coleen Hudkins, Meredith Baker, Maestra Sanguino, Maestra Montano

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

OPEN POSITIONS: Ben announced the open positions and candidates (there were no contested positions. There are three Open Positions - Co-Treasurer, VP, Fund Raising. There are also positions that people are willing to serve in or are currently filled and those people are willing to continue, however, it requires a vote. A letter went home with the open positions some of which are just project leaders. Contact Ben if you are interested.

Motion to Approve Lisa Kovacevic as Amity Coordinator: A motion was made to approve Lisa Kovacevic as Amity Coordinator and there was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve. ***Resolved*** – Lisa Kovacevic will continue to serve as Amity Coordinator.

Motion to Remaining Continuing Board Positions: A motion was made to approve the remaining board positions as a slate (Amy Potter – Secretary, Colby Huling – Treasurer, Victoria Palacios – Fiesta Coordinator, and Abraham Rincon – Site Council) and there was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve. ***Resolved*** – The following members were elected to the board for 2017-2018: Amy Potter – Secretary, Colby Huling – Treasurer, Victoria Palacios – Fiesta Coordinator, and Abraham Rincon – Site Council.

AMITY – The coordinators are working on getting all 5 interns. We have 4 already and we want 5. But, we only have 7 or maybe 8 host families. They need more host families. On Thursday, June 15, 2017 Thursday - 6-8 there will be a farewell for the Amity Interns at Dickie Joe's at Valley River

SITE COUNCIL – There are several upcoming events: Teacher appreciation Week, the May 15 - MOD Pizza fundraiser, Noche de Lotteria - Bingo Night - May 19, the Dance - June 9 and the week of May 22 is coin drive. The teacher collaborations are continuing. They were focused on writing and now are shifting back to looking at data. The students had ALICE training last Friday and drills today. They have

applied for 3 EEF grants. The Kindergarten teachers developed a hands on kindergarten program for the classroom and at home use for motor skills training. This is a 5k grant. A second grant is for expanded access to OBOB. Instead of buying the books for the library, they are going to put set of books in each 3rd-5th grade classroom and the teachers are going to try and integrate them into class. Also, there is a plan to get Spanish books and audio books. This is a \$1600-\$2000 grant. Because there is just enough uncertainty about the possibility of getting the grant, they are still recommending a contingency \$500 in our budget. The final grant is for two K-5 curriculums - one to continue with age appropriate social development and one bullying prevention - second steps.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD ASSISTANCE – This year for the first time we have provided food to families in need of weekend food assistance. Parents fill out form if they need assistance and the office provides the backpack number and food is placed in backpack. Right now there are 33 students receiving the food. We have granola from Food for Lane County and rice and beans. We received the rice and beans from a food packing event that several area schools participate in. We put up \$3000 (raised through donations) to participate and received 3000 food packets. We are going to run out in November. Because this is such a great way to support needy families in our school, the question is whether BVPO will support it. Either in total (up to \$3000) or even just half (\$1500). Private donations are still possible but it needs to be sustainable. Those present indicated there are other options including becoming a partner agency with Food for Lane County. The issue though is space and ease of the program.

Ben reminded the group that a decision will be made on this (and other requests) when we vote on in budget of June. He also reminded the group of the pending budget issues – we are \$8000 behind in fundraising. Todd noted that this program costs \$1500 and we plan to spend \$1000 on 1/2 day to Woodburn. The question is what is worth including and discussing.

BUDGET DISCUSSION – We will vote in June on the budget for 2017-2018. Some items have already been approved for next year or are required expenditures. We have made \$50,275 this year in fundraising. There is \$4122 left over from this year or the capital budget that was not spent and can be added to next year (The safety go kits, the 5th Grade Bully Program and BizTown). This is a total of \$54847. Here are the proposed expenditures:

- Amity - 35,000 (already approved)
- Admin - 2945 – (nonnegotiable)
- Fiesta – \$7200 – Last year we spent 6400, but Melissa spent 800 on bus. This is the true cost. We make 2k while there.
- Woodburn - \$1000 - 2nd grade field trip
- Staff - \$10,000 - collaboration pay for subs so grade level teachers can meet

- Costa Rica- \$700 – (already approved for next year budget)
- Classroom grants - \$5100 – We give money to teachers to spend on classrooms. It has been given during years when had money and not during ones we don't
- School Affairs - \$1200 - ice cream social, teacher appreciation, luncheon

If you add those numbers up, we are proposing spending \$ 63,145. We will have to make cuts. A question was asked about the \$4122 and whether that had to be part of next year's budget. The answer is no. A discussion was had and those present appeared interested in making it part of the discussion.

Motion to Include \$4122 in Next Year's Budget: A motion was include the \$4122 that was not spent this year as part of the proposed budget for next year for planning purposes. There was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve. ***Resolved*** – The \$4122 that was not spent this year will be included as part of the proposed budget for next year for planning purpose.

We have to cut \$8298 when that \$4122 is included. There are also ideas of other things to spend on. OBOB - \$500 and Weekend Backpack Food Assistance - \$1500 – are two examples. There may be some additional money that comes in before the final meeting from Coin Drive and dinners out but that will be significantly less than the shortfall.

A question was asked about whether we could get an EEF grant for collaboration. The answer was EEF does not pay for staff things. Also, Site Council needs to approve any EEF grants.

Todd asked that if people have basic questions about the budget please feel free to reach out so that June meeting is a summary meeting.

LIBRARY AND BOOK FAIR REPORT - We made the most we have ever made at a book fair which will result in a cash profit of \$2600 and a Scholastic bonus of 1100. If anyone wants to learn how to do book fair, please contact Tiffany.

SCHOOL AFFAIRS – Teacher appreciation week is coming and each grade is taking a day and providing stuff for the teachers. We are not doing full lunch but doing a lunch on grading day in June.

OTHER - School Garden -things are starting to grow and fence is up. Noche de Loteria is May 19, the School Dance is June 9, Field Day is June 22, Ice Cream Social is Sept 5. If somebody would like to do that, let Ben know.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – There are 30 school days left for this academic school year. The 3rd-5th grade classes finished English Smarter Balance and are now onto Math. Post-Memorial Day, they will be doing district testing. Teachers are

learning about the new Science protocol on Wednesday and working thinking maps. School Improvement funds are coming that earmarked for technology and each classroom getting Sluggo reading program. Also, if your child brings a bookmark back, he or she will get two tickets to an Ems games. Next Thursday performers from Ghana are coming. Bike and Walk to school is also coming up. There is also a recycling competition coming up – check out flyers at the school.

Melissa also provided an update on staffing. BV is still staffed at 16.75, so one of our teachers is .75 and it looks like 5th grade will be 2.75 if that remains. Will have to divide 80 students between 2 teachers for .25 of the day. Ben suggested single letter to the Board to be signed by everyone. H will work on draft of a letter to sign at the next BVPO meeting. Our enrollment is a little under 440 and we are projected to be at 460. There is no building cap. The only cap is kindergarten which is 75. There are waiting lists by class. Our classroom sizes on par with neighborhood

FIESTA – Melissa began the discussion by indicating that after this Fiesta, Site Council wanted to look at the Pros and Cons if Fiesta. An anonymous survey was sent to the staff to get a sense of their take on Fiesta. 10 out of 17 teachers responded. None of the teachers who responded wanted to keep Fiesta as it is. 30% said they were not willing to do Fiesta. 70% said they were willing to do Fiesta if it was more low key. Teachers were also asked about the amount of time they spent on Fiesta preparations. Three reported 5-10 hours and five reported 16 or more hours. There were reasons listed to do Fiesta: adding cultural relevance, the opportunity to work as a team, cultural information. There were also reasons provided not to do it: equity issues, stress, goes against core values (teaching Spanish language), there are behavioral issues, and most teachers would rather invite parents to view a presentation based on a unit of study. One of the issues for teachers was loss of instructional time – for each 30 minute practice there was a loss of about 40 minutes of instructional time because of the need to transition to practice and then back to the classroom. There were also behavioral issues that needed to be addressed.

After this introduction, Ben noted that the purpose of the meeting was, after hearing this information, to discuss Fiesta as parents. The key topics for discussion were (1) What does Fiesta accomplish; (2) What are the objectives of a future event; (3) What are the concerns regarding Fiesta and (4) How do we address the concerns. This is a discussion but we don't need to convince anyone – the staff will make the final decision.

One parent indicated that while he can see value in Fiesta. He recalls doing dances as a child in Mexico, but when they did them it was a social event. At Fiesta, you have to sit and you cannot leave because it would be disrespectful. It is a burden for families. Also, a lot of it is done for the parents. If we want a social event for the school, it could look different.

Another parent mentioned that when the school was 220-230 students, it was a fun evening sitting on the bleachers that moved facts. Now the Hult center is the only venue and it is more formal.

There was a question about the venue – could we have it at a church? There is no church in town. No other venue has been found that will work.

The question that was asked in the past was if Fiesta went away, what would we replace it with? What does it accomplish? The parent indicated it provides sense of community that other schools accomplish through gatherings.

Another parent indicated that it also provides an amazing opportunity to be on the stage at the Hult center – if they went to any other school they would not be able to do this. When they look back on elementary school years they are going to remember big community events not more curriculum. This parent did indicate, though, that she would love to find solutions to reduce stress and look at other events that they could remove to ease the burden on teachers.

Another parent agreed and indicated that it may be getting too long and that is hard for the little kids. Maybe it could be shorter with classes grouped together by grade.

Another parent indicated that maybe it could be limited to 3-5th grade – her kids are looking forward to it. It is an important event that maybe parents need know they need to get more involved in. Parents can help more.

The teachers have to rely more on parents which is hard but it is a good time to share with other kids and for parent involvement.

A parent who has been doing this for five years, has three kids at the school and has helped with 4 classrooms dances indicated that Fiesta is very important to her children. The school has gotten so big and there is no other performance experience is being offered. Some kids have the opportunity through extracurricular activities, but for some children, they will never have this opportunity elsewhere and they need the opportunity to do performance art and to do it together. This event is building confidence. Some of the students do speeches. It doesn't need to be 3 hours at Hult center with K-5, but something needs to occur. Unfortunately, there is lots of lack of communication. Parents don't know what is happening and so they don't volunteer to help. We need to overcome communication gap. Maybe we could split it up. But, we need to remember this is a big deal. Students talk about which teachers have the better Fiesta dances when considering who they want in future years. Parents are also surprised – they often say I didn't know my daughter could do that. The students develop confidence.

Another parent indicated that he doesn't want to ax the program, but maybe we do need to find another alternative. This is a very positive experience for the kids.

Ben indicated that he spoke with a parent who went to BV and Fiesta has been around in some form for 33-35 years. It wasn't initially the entire school and took difference forms, but there was a dancing component. Hate to see that go away. He also noted that no one seems concerned about loss of instructional minutes.

A parent asked why this is coming up now. Melissa indicated that no one asked teachers about Fiesta in the past which is why this may just be being raised now. But, Maestra Sanguino did indicate that it has come up with the teachers and it keeps getting moved to the next year.

Maestra Baker offered that this is the year that Fiesta finally took its toll for her. She used to be a dance instructor but the time commitment and the loss of instruction was just too much.

One parent present mentioned that they thought that Fiesta used to incorporated into Music and PE and could it be again. Melissa offered that Music and PE have their own standards that they have to meet. Music does teach the entire school song. This is a problem – the standards are becoming more rigorous in everything and it is harder and harder to meet standards.

For the teachers, yes there is a part that is a social education and it is memorable but our job is to teach them what they need to know to move from one grade to the next.

Another teacher offered that as far as teachers go it is important for parents to remember that they have to spend the evening at Fiesta which is outside of their contracted time and it impacts their personal lives. That is in addition to all the additional time they have to spend coming up with the dance.

Maestra Bradley also echoed that this is not an issue that has just come up. The teachers have been looking at it for a long time and have become increasingly concerned. This was just the first year they were asked to share their opinions.

A parent indicated we need to listen and validate those concerns. It would be nice, though, to have a community event and if we pull Fiesta, what is the replacement.

Another parent brought up the curriculum issue. Parents do think curriculum is important. Is question how do we change Fiesta or how do we fix the problem. If we only do certain grades, the choreography still has to happen, the teacher still has to do everything. Same issue if we do a different kind of event. From a teacher perspective, what would make a difference?

One teacher offered that having control of the curriculum might help. If the class is doing a unit on Poetry, planning a poetry night does not add that much extra time and also supports the instruction. Grade level presentations, multicultural education events, cultural day with speaking parts, cultural nights etc. could all fit in the same way. Performing in the formal venue raises the formality, makes it more stressful. Alternatives that are more low key allow the students to do a performance without all the stress.

One parent mentioned that Fiesta is a bit of a missed opportunity. It is super powerful but he still doesn't know many BV families. Is there a way to have an authentic cultural exchange and get to know the families.

A parent who went to BV mentioned that between the possibility of losing Fiesta and no assemblies, it is concerning. We don't want it to be too hard to do these important things. He looks back fondly on Fiesta but a lot of the essence has been lost. It used to be an opportunity to learn about the country and traditional dance but now it is more contemporary.

Another person mentioned that there should be a focus on instructional time but they would like to see other things gone before Fiesta.

A teacher noted that even for contemporary songs, a lesson was created to try and talk about it but that is not part of the standards they are teaching so it does not help meet instructional goals.

A parent asked if it was more relevant and focused on their area of study, would that solve some of the problem and not waste as much time. It might help in some classes but not others. For example, social studies in Kindergarten is maps and it would not translate well.

A teacher mentioned that behavior is a big issue. There are only limited practice slots and it can be a very negative experience because it is a lot of telling kids - stop, don't do that, etc.. Because some parents ok with misbehavior, they are ok with the kids doing that but the teachers are not ok with it at school. There are also other layers – required volunteer time outside of their contract. The teachers don't mind spending time making books or developing lessons but devoting this much time to something that makes it difficult to meet the standards I am being evaluated on is hard. Also, people tend to underestimate the time it will take. Kindergarteners are 5 – it is easy to overestimate what they can do. Again, the teachers don't mind working late and extra hours but they want to focus on things that assist their students in meeting the required standards.

A parent indicated that she sees the teacher point of view. They have things they have to teach and we can't ask them to ignore. This parent felt she could not in

good conscience as a parent require teachers do things they don't want to do. Having the event at the Hult center is what makes it so special and while giving them the opportunity to do grade level things is nice, it is not the same. But, it is sad the teachers feel so stressed and they need more parent involvement. If the teachers did not feel that, she would support continuing Fiesta.

A parent mentioned that some schools do a performance every other year and maybe that would more here.

A parent indicated that she can see both sides. She worked on a dance in Kindergarten and it was a tremendous amount of work and there were behavioral issues. We have to listen to what is impacting the teachers and students.

A parent indicated that it is important to look at what Fiesta accomplishes and what we value. We value that families celebrate what children learning and language development. We value pride in the school and the program - - that is a really cool thing. There is value in the ability to engage in creative expression and the joy that the students show. When working on really big project and they accomplish that, it is a big deal. If we continue, it is important to keep these elements no matter how it looks. There are many options: storytelling nights, living history museum - bilingual presentation, art gallery night, poetry slam, bilingual play - do a better job - partnering with other cultural events. Fiesta is going to evolve and it should evolve and the staff should direct that evolution. They need to look at factors like number of people and classrooms. As we do that, hope we talk about what is being lost because every year there is another take away of what seems dynamic and joyful about our program.

Maestra Bradley said that she is not just looking at Fiesta. There are more and more things being put on our plates. Now there are all these extra assessments. The more we lose instructional time is it impacting our academics. Her kids are not where they need to be. She think teachers want to do all of these things, but it is beginning to be a burden. Times are changing and we need to look at this. - we have had those conversations - let's bring our idea - times change - things change - might not look the same way

A question was asked about the budget item for Fiesta. Ben indicated that if Melissa and staff want to do Fiesta next year will we pay for it. It is not BVPO's decision whether to do Fiesta.

A parent asked in BVPO created a curriculum for Fiesta if that would help. The teachers did not seem to think it would be significant.

Another parent offered that one thing that is missing is a time to get everyone together. Maybe we could do a talent show or some other event to get everyone together.

Another parent indicated that without staff and teacher support, we can't continue to do Fiesta. Fiesta is important thing and it was obvious parents support it but if the burden is too much to put on teachers, what is the alternative?

Victoria Palacios did indicate that part of the plan for next year is to get more parent involved to develop a plan and maybe even a curriculum ahead of time. She doesn't have concrete plan but that was vision - need at least 4 people on committee.

One parent offered that he loves Fiesta as a parent but would hate it as a teacher. Is there a way to fit it in somewhere else – to have someone other than the teachers do it? Could we meet with downtown and write a PE and Music curriculum for it.

A parent indicated that we have placed value on Fiesta and it seems like teachers have great ideas what Fiesta should be. Teachers need to have autonomy over process. Teachers need to have ownership.

Ben indicated that would be ideal but there is one staff meeting a week and a lot of topics to discuss. It may be top down - they don't have time to do this. He hopes we can make incremental changes and keep as much as you can. We could incorporate ideas, but still do a performance or at least have part

A parent suggested giving different teachers different lengths of time. But, we were reminded the workload must be equitable.

Ben noted that ultimately, we offer our opinion, but these are staff decisions. There are feelings here and there and not all of the ten teachers who filled out the survey are in complete agreement which is huge indicator.

Melissa indicated she is not sure when these programmatic decisions will be made. There is a staff meeting on May 24 to discuss further but it can't be the entire meeting. She will provide an update when she is able.