

Buena Vista Parent Organization – Minutes – October 12, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Tim Bruegman, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions.

A sign in sheet was circulated and the following members signed in:

Tim Bruegman (President), Lisa Kovacevic (Amity Coordinator), Amy Peterson (K Rep), Erin Couture (4th G rep), Tiffany Wright (Bookfair/E-script), Lisa Hicks, Heidi Gese, Ben Gese, Dan Howard (1st G rep), Amy Birney (communications-e-news), Ben Temple (site council), Sarah McKee (site council), Todd Grigsby (treasurer), April Colgrove (fundraising), Autumn Christopherson (Fiesta Co-Chair), Michael Hundt (Cultural Immersion Trip), Renée Buchanan, Coleen Hudkins (2nd Grade Rep), Lisa Nicholson, Dorothy Penaloza, Kristin White (School Spirit), Enrique Macias, Gail Spinks (Amity Coordinator), Keri Papé, Juan Cuadros (Principal)

A list of BVPO board members and volunteers and an updated calendar was provided. These are available on the website at www.bvpo.org

APPROVAL OF JUNE AND SEPTEMBER MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the September and June minutes and there was a second. A voice vote was called and no opposition was noted.

Resolved:

The PTO Minutes for June and September were approved.

SCHOOL NURSE UPDATE

The school nurse is Nichole Fry BSN, RN. She works at Cal Young, Buena Vista, Spencer Butte, and Adams

Contact Information:

Fry_n@4j.lane.edu

541-790-6500 – number at Buena Vista

541-790-6416 – message number

Nurse Fry is the nurse at four schools. She is at Buena Vista every Monday and most Friday's (float day). She takes care of acute injuries and creates and implements plans for life threatening issues (*i.e.* food allergies, asthma, diabetes). She also trains the staff on these issues. Finally, she teaches the students about hygiene, food allergies and reproductive health in the 5th grade if the teacher requests it. She is particularly interested in increased education related to food allergies and wants to create a food allergy aware community. She is working to reduce the number of peanuts in the school and teach kids about food allergies so they know where to sit, to wash their hands and not share food.

She will also do vision and dental screening for all grades, will take students whose parents provide permission to the dental clinic and will do hearing tests for the

Kindergarteners. She has access to free or reduced costs services for students and in some cases families. Contact her if you need assistance.

STUDENT TRIATHLON PROPOSAL

Parent Renée Buchanan proposed a Buena Vista triathlon similar to the one held annually at Gilham Elementary. She provided a map of the proposed run at the Sheldon track and the bike. The swim would be at the Sheldon pool. It would be open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The fee would be \$5 or \$10 if t-shirts were provided. It would be held during school hours. Many of the logistics have been figured out by Gilham and we would be following their model. It is a self-sustaining event.

Discussion was had regarding what students who choose not to participate would do, when it would be scheduled, and whether there would be enough parent volunteers. The general consensus seemed to be that near the end of the year would be the best time. Overall, the members present expressed support for the proposal and there was no significant opposition. Renee will go to the principal and teachers with the proposal and report back.

OPHELIA'S PLACE (ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM) UPDATE

Tim Bruegman reported on this program which was approved last June and fund were allocated. This is an empowerment program provided by Ophelia's Place to 4th – 6th graders. There is a staff session, a parent session (which any parent can attend) and then two 45 minute sessions in each class. They are trying to find space in the calendar for this and trying to get it in before Christmas. Watch for more information in the Enews.

HARLOW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION - WEEKEND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Ben Temple provided information about a program that is currently at Bertha Holt Elementary that provides dried food each Friday to families in need at the school. The Harlow Neighborhood Association runs the program and would like to add Buena Vista. The more schools involved, the lower the cost of the food. This would involve fundraising on the part of the BVPO – approximately \$1 per meal – and volunteers who would be willing to package the food (a once a year event) and distribute the food (every Friday). Asking for money may be the most difficult part but many present expressed the view that this is a very worthy project. A point of contact is needed to learn more about the program and make a formal presentation to the BVPO. If you are interested, please contact Ben Temple.

AMITY UPDATE

Lisa Kovacevic presented a brief update was provided on Amity. The program is going well. The interns are very happy with the school and host families. The teachers are very happy with the work the interns have been doing.

TREASURER UPDATE

Todd Grigsby provided the treasurer's update. He circulated a copy of the budget and noted that we are generally tracking the budget as expected. If an expenditure is approved in June, then Todd can write a check. If not, it will need approval from the BVPO first.

Carnival received \$1198.97 in direct donations so the cost should be covered. To date, there has been \$6098.41 collected for jog-a-thon. There is currently money in the school supply budget which will be spent mid-year in consultation with the principal.

Todd mentioned the committee to address the surplus funds (the Capital Committee) has not yet met, but Todd anticipates a meeting in November. Then, the committee will report back to the entire BVPO.

Lastly, Todd identified some issues with the current bank and is doing some research to find another bank. Once he identifies a new bank, he will make a proposal to the BVPO.

SCHOOL AFFAIRS UPDATE

A review of the Carnival was provided. The carnival went very well, there were lots of volunteers, and a great use of space. Juan Cuadros thanked all the parent volunteers.

The parents provide dinners during school conferences. Amy Peterson announced that this has been taken care of and the kindergarten parents will provide the dinner.

We need to start thinking about the holiday break food drives. There was a question about whether we want to do Thanksgiving baskets or gift cards for winter break. Principal Cuadros is going to work with the BVPO to send out a survey to determine if the families would prefer food baskets or gift cards. There is a need for someone (or a couple of people) to take charge of the food drive. They will be responsible for getting volunteers, figuring out what is needed and raising money.

SCHOOL SPIRIT UPDATE

Kristin White provided the update. There is not going to be a dance on October 30th. A dance will happen this year – date TBA. There will be a school spirit week the last week of October but students should not wear costumes.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

April Colgrove provided the update. There is a coin drive going on through November 30. There are containers in the classroom to collect coins. This is a class competition and the class that raises the most money will win a prize.

Box tops are coming soon - November 1 – so start cutting out box tops!

Tim Bruegman provided information about the school spirit gear website. It is a website where you can order Buena Vista t-shirts and sweatshirts. The website will be open for orders until most likely Nov. 24 and then, once the order period closes, the items will be delivered to the school. It takes 10 days to print and package. We make \$5 for each item sold. Request were made to add additional items to future orders. There is a need for a parent to take this project over – contact Tim. Check it out at www.mcsewon.com/bve

October 31st is the Holiday Photo Shoot & Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. Breakfast will be \$5 and hot cocoa for \$1. Picture will be \$20 for 2 backgrounds and \$25 for 3. More information to come.

Tiffany Wright presented on the book fair. She is making purchases through the scholastic catalog. She polled the parents on having a 3rd book fair to get additional credits. The consensus was no. Questions were asked about how books are selected and if the district provides guidance. They do – the issue is just spending the time to select and order books. We need to grow the Spanish library. We do receive book donations.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

There have been some problems with the E-news but it is getting worked out. Don't forget to check out the website (www.bvpo.org) for the latest updates.

FIESTA UPDATE

Autumn Christopherson informed the group that the Hult Center cancelled our February 19 reservation for Fiesta. We need to take the available date offered – April 15 – and make a deposit right away. A check was requested for \$1022.50. No formal vote was needed because the money was already allocated. No opposition was noted to the new date and it was agreed that the deposit should be made.

SITE COUNCIL UPDATE

Site Council opted to allow Principal Juan Cuadros to present but noted that they are working on grants for OBOB and other programs.

PRINCIPAL & STAFF UPDATE

Principal Juan Cuadros announced that Maestra Long is retiring effective Friday Dec 19th. She will not finish the year. He is working with HR to do a full recruitment for a bilingual teacher (Plan A). If he cannot find a bilingual teacher,

he will expand the search to include an English speaking teacher and then will work with the leadership team to look at the 4th grade program (Plan B). He will update the parents as more information is available.

Principal Cuadros then turned to school safety. Safety drills are practiced once a month. Recently, there was a modified lockdown and everyone did really well. This happened because there is a gunsmith living next door to the school and a customer showed up with a rifle, but did not follow procedures when he approached the door. A parent saw it and notified the school. This incident has led him to look at procedures like, for example, what to do during lunch or recess. He is also hoping to participate in ALICE training (Alert, lockdown, inform, evacuate) which is in conjunction with Eugene PD in order to improve the safety procedures.

Principal Cuadros did note that there is also a need to improve the safety at the front office. The front doors at Buena Vista are not locked because we do not have a camera or buzzer system. Also, there has been an issue with no one being at the front counter during certain periods of the day. This is a manpower issue, but he intends to move Micah's workstation during certain portions of the day so she can be up front.

A parent indicated that on the day of the Roseburg shooting, Eugene PD sent officers to the schools to check in. When EPD arrived at BV, they were there for almost a minute before anyone came to the front. This is a significant concern.

Principal Cuadros indicated he is working on improving front door security. In terms of manpower, the allocated classified time must be divided among many different jobs. He is working on addressing this to make sure the front office is covered. He is also going to work with the administration regarding a locking front door, cameras and other safety issues.

An issue was raised about the email that was sent about the lockdown and whether it accurately conveyed what happened. Some classes seemed to have executed a full lockdown (lights out, in a corner) as opposed to a modified lockdown. Principal Cuadros indicated that means he needs to do additional training. But, he still feels that everyone did very well and it was a success.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55pm

s/ Amy E. Potter