

BVPO Meeting – September 11, 2017

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Ben Temple welcomed everyone. The following members were present: Ben Temple, Ricci Huling, Colby Huling, Ian Baines, Maryam Jahangiri, Jill Hudson, Sra. Montano, Abe Rincon, Enda Pierce, Sydney Koh, Amy Peterson, Nathan Klarr, Patricia Suarez, Javier Sota, Alejandra Garcia, Giovanni Rubiano, Sofia Valle, Kristin Issertell, Lisa Kovacevic, Laura Lee, Elizabeth Settlemyer, Lindsey Meyer, Mr. Meyer, Sam T., Ebba Corleto, Keri Pape, Chris Young, Francesca Sandoval, Amanda Montoya, Jennifer DaSilva, Debbie Olsen, Angeline Par Ramos, Kelly Finley, Heidi Giese, Ben Giese, Joanna Palmer, Victoria Palacios Kronin, Nitara Holly, Gretchen Ruddick, Gail Spinks, Amy Birney, Laurie Burke, Tiffany Wright, Nonie Ganakis

Colby Huling offered interpreting services.

Motion to Approve June Minutes: A motion was made to approve the June minutes and there was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve. ***Resolved*** – The June Meeting Minutes were approved. 38 voted in favor, no one voted in opposition.

AMITY INTERN INTRODUCTION: Lisa K introduced the Amity Intern program. Big part of our budget and requires parental support for host families. Four of the five teachers have graduated with their degrees.

Sofia Valle. Working with 3rd grade team. From El Salvador (a first). First time out of her country and seeing snow. Host family: White

Patricia Suarez. Working with 5th grade team. From Barcelona, Spain. Friend of Judit, intern from last year. Host family: Kovash

Javier Sota. Working with 1st grade team. From Spain. Host family: Spinks

Alejandra Garcia. Working with 2nd grade team. Female from Columbia. Host family: Sell

Giovani Rubiano. Working with 4th grade team. Male from Bogota, Colombia. Education is the most powerful weapon for changing the world. Host family: Ruddick

CALENDAR REVIEW: Ben T reviewed the annual calendar.

JOG-A-THON: Maryam J described Jog-a-thon. At Sheldon Track, two heats (K-2 and 3-5). Expect lots of communication on paper and by computer channels (email, remind, facebook). Parents encouraged to attend and stay for lunch (cash only). Volunteers needed: sign up will be sent out soon. Special call for a volunteer with a truck on the day of (7:30 and noon). Track will be resurfaced by then. Fundraising

checks made out to Buena Vista School. [**Post meeting update:** Jog-a-Thon has been postponed until spring due to work on the track.]

LIBRARY: Tiffany W talked about our parent/volunteer-run library. Called for classroom library, non-classroom library and book fair volunteers. Volunteers can be English only; can also bring non-school-age children. Offered sign up sheets. Kindergarten classes do not currently have library time.

Tiffany also described the **Scholastic Book Fair:** Before and after school for the kids, with a weekend kick-off event. Parents can come in at other times during the school day.

SCHOOL GARDEN: Nonie Ganakis indicated that the Garden project has some money, but no volunteers other than Nonie. She has talked to the teachers about what they would need to better use the garden space. Answer: A covered teaching area. Will use leftover BVPO funds and Annie's Green Garden grant (\$3000). Shifting from a vegetable garden to a perennial garden (trees, flowers, bulbs, herbs, etc), requiring less regular volunteer attention. Emerald Bible Fellowship volunteers cleaned up the garden space for us this summer/fall. We are working to further engage them. Aimed for a 3-year garden-based, hands-on curriculum. Hasn't worked that way, because not enough parent interest to sustain it. There is interest among the teachers, but they struggle to implement among other priorities, which is especially difficult in addition to implementing the new Science curriculum.

2017-2018 BUDGET: Ben Temple reviewed the annual BVPO budget. We still have about \$4000 yet to allocate this fall.

Admin	2,975
Amity	35,000
Costa Rica Gift	700
Subs for Staff Collaboration	10,000*
Classroom Grants	5,100
School Affairs	1,200
OBOB	500
Weekend Backpacks	1,500
Funds available to spend:	60,921
Budgeted:	56,475
Need to allocate:	4,446 (includes \$500 no longer needed for OBOB)

* = \$10,000 in funding for substitute teachers to support staff collaboration time was approved hastily last spring. Ben has indicated to Directora Ibarra that the portion of these funds slated for January through June will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting before final approval.

Final Budgeting: Parents should be prepared to present, discuss and approve ideas for spending the ~\$4400 unallocated funds at the October meeting. Would be helpful if parents with additional ideas submit them to Ben in advance of the meeting for vetting re details.

Ideas already on the table:

- Whole school social event in the Spring
- Amity host family recruitment
- Teacher field trips (reduce parent costs)
- Dream Box
- Additional funds to the Weekend Backpack packing event.

Another idea for channeling funds directly to teachers: Ask teachers to set up Amazon Wish Lists that are shared with parents, who can then use them for holiday and year-end purchases, etc.

Q: Are we reaching out to the teachers for ideas?

A: Sometimes, when ideas come in from parents, if priorities are not clear.

Fundraising Changes: Per new district fundraising rules, all funds raised during school hours (e.g., Jogathon) go to the school's budget. We will continue to do the fundraiser(s). The money can be held over to spend the next year, just like BVPO typically budgets. So, the Principal will work with BVPO in the spring to decide how those funds will be spent during the next school year. Colby Huling requested a meeting with a district rep.

FALL CARNIVAL: Sydney K introduced Carnival as a social event, not a fundraiser. Suggested \$5/family donation, but not mandatory. Communications coming home via backpacks, Remind app and email with info and links to Volunteer sign ups (Monday, Oct 2nd). Parent volunteers will be very important. Also plan to reach out to the Spanish Immersion and Honors students at Sheldon to volunteer. Also will ask for Cake Walk items (store-bought or homemade). 5th grade class will be coordinating food/beverage sales as a 5th-grade promotion fundraiser.

SPIRIT WEEK and SCHOOL DANCE: Melissa Ibarra summarized Spirit Week and School dance for the week of Oct 23-27, with the dance on Oct 27.

WEEKEND BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM: Sydney K covered the Weekend Backpack Food Program: On Fridays we provide food packets for students with food insecurity. We keep food distribution completely anonymous. There will be a food-packing event later this school year. Participation costs us \$3000; \$1500 is already allocated.

PARENT LETTER REGARDING FIESTA: Ben Temple alerted parents to a letter coming out to existing parent mailing lists to express concerns about losing the Fiesta annual event with no comparable replacement event, as well as our support of any new event(s) that teachers may offer.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: Melissa Ibarra presented the following updates.

Emerald Bible Fellowship: Helped with all sorts of fall preparation tasks (e.g., grounds, curriculum unpacking/inventory/distribution).

Videos & Website: Look for links to weekly YouTube videos on the website.

Two new curricula: LearnZillion (math curriculum), Maravillas Spanish reading curriculum (aligned with River Road).

Curriculum Nights: Will be different from in the past. Parents will do Foss kits. Ways parents can support students. Teachers will send out the presentations/materials afterwards. Also going over grade-level rotations.

Remind App: Important for parents to sign up for their classroom's Remind App before Sept 28, which is when teachers will send out a request to sign up for conferences.