

**Buena Vista Parent Organization Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2016**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Ben Temple, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions. The following members signed in: Ben Temple, George Bosch, Neil Callahan, Victoria Palacios, Ben Gese, Heidi Gese, Ashley LaVelle, Ebba Corleto, Kari Rossman, Autumn Christopherson, Coleen Hudkins, Gail Spinks, Nonie Ganakis, Colby Huling, Ben Hinde, Mo Young, Brad Sattler, Heidi Grigsby, Sydney Koh, Paul Koh, Melissa Ibarra, Lisa Kovacevic, Amy Birney, Amy Potter, Keri Pape

Motion to Approve September Minutes – A motion was made to approve the September minutes. There was a second. A vote was called. A majority of those present voted to approve.

Resolved - The September Minutes were approved

AMITY – Lisa K. provided a brief introduction to Amity for people new to BV/BVPO and an update. The Amity teachers are young teachers in training. There is one for each grade. Things are going well in classroom and they are involved in the classrooms. The home stays are also going well. This year the Amity Interns are arriving and leaving with the teachers to be more involved in planning. The interns also have school laptops to plan lessons.

FUNDRAISING- The updates began with Jog-a-thon. The students averaged about 18 labs each. The money is coming in – the teachers are gathering the envelopes. Everyone is going to get a t-shirt this year. There were suggestions about seeking sponsors next year and doing more to make it a celebration and increase motivation. For sponsorships, the issue is making sure we do not ask the same people to sponsor over and over. There was some confusion over the BBQ – the BBQ is just the hot lunch line. Next year they intend to move the watermelon stand.

Papa's Pizza Fundraiser -The Papa's dinner fundraiser raised \$1300.

The pancake breakfast and family photo shot is November 5 – look for more information soon. One parent indicated he may be able to help with Santa.

Papa's Coupons are coming soon– these are a great value and easy to sell.

Subasta is a major fundraiser – dinner and auction. People purchase tickets in advance (\$30-\$40). They are aiming for 200 people to attend. There is a team of 25 people that are going to put this together. We still need 5th grade parent to coordinate dessert dash. The 4th and 5th grade split funds to fund 5th grade celebration. They still need a Buy in Board Raffle Coordination – this raises approximately \$2000. Coleen Hudkins volunteered. There will also be a need for

people the night of Subasta – Autumn will be coordinating. Only two people will need to work the entire time.

Ben also reminded everyone that there are still several open positions: Enews, library volunteer coordinator (who will be here when they come - Tiffany has too many jobs in library), bilingual class representatives and a Vice President.

SCHOOL AFFAIRS - Carnival is Thursday from 6-8. They need volunteers. This is a great way to meet other parents. This is a strictly social event, but there is a recommended donation. Signup through sign up genius. 5th grade class is selling pizza and soda for end of year celebration.

During conferences, the school affairs committee will provide dinner. This year they are doing crock pots of soup, bread and salad.

There was a discussion of the Holiday Break Food Drives. Emerald Bible Fellowship handles the Thanksgiving baskets. They are working to finalize the list – they need to know the number of by November 8. There is also a chance that the families who are part of the Thanksgiving baskets could be part of the giving tree at the church. For Winter Break, the plan is to do a food drive. Last year we went with food cards, but those were not widely supported. People will bring a lot of food, but were reluctant to bring cash. We need someone to organize the Winter Break food drive. The hope is that it will be more organized – signups for specific food items potentially online. Victoria Palacios offered to assist.

LIBRARY – Tiffany was not at the meeting so Ben presented. Library starts next week and all library time will be Tuesday and Wednesday. Checking books in and out is very complicated, so instead of having parent volunteers, Tiffany will do it. She inventoried books this summer and found 600 missing books, so we are trying to avoid this in the future. Teachers will bring in parent volunteer to help them find books, but they will not be on the computers.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT – Ben Temple announced the election of Ben Hinde as the Cultural Development Chair. Ben H. was elected into the vacancy by the current Board of Directors over email. Ben H. introduced himself and discussed some of his ideas. He is going to work with the Costa Rica trip to encourage more participation. Focus on getting the K-4 onboard. He is considering approaching local financial institutions to get them to offer trip savings accounts. He is also working with the gardens to do a Columbia and Spain theme for raised gardens as cultural tool. He also wants to focus on Latino family engagement. One idea is a food event and another is a Cinco de Mayo event. Another idea is a cultural exchange – kids could spend night at home of Latino family and vice versa. He is also looking at an Earth Day curriculum in Spanish. Finally, he is reaching out to other immersion programs to see what they are doing. Contact Ben Hinde if

you have thoughts. Many people voiced support and voiced thoughts on the ideas. The idea of bringing families together over food was widely supported. Further discussion will have to happen to hash out the ideas.

Some present reminded everyone that the rest of the 5th grade is trying to come up with Immersion idea for the entire 5th grade.

Some concerns were raised about why the trip is now 10 or so 5th graders. Ben Temple noted this is part of a much larger discussion and he will meet with people who want to discuss.

Ben announced that Ophelia's Place wants to do an anti-bullying program for 5th graders this Spring. Looking for someone to be point of contact.

SCHOOL GARDEN – They are currently writing 3-4 grants for the garden. Trying to get grants for shed. 4J is haggling with them on gate – it is not installed properly but hopefully it will be by winter. Cameras are doing the job right now. The Garden Committee meets every Monday. They are looking for volunteers to adopt a weekend day and spend 1-2 hours pulling weeds or removing debris. If you work 2 hours in a month, you will get produce. The sign-up sheet is on board.

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM – Sydney K. indicated that this is a program that sends rice and beans and granola home each weekend with kids who need additional food. The families signed up through the office and the identities are confidential.

SITE COUNCIL – Amy Birney presented about Site Council which is a monthly meeting of all of the stakeholders at the same time - Directora Ibarra, three teachers, two parents and EAs. They have discussed teacher collaborations and approved a consistent Spanish speaking substitute. They are also looking at a comprehensive achievement plan which looks at 34 indicators from classes to parent involvement to help determine what the most important things we need to be working on at BV. They also have the paperwork for the EEF grants so we can move forward.

PRINCIPAL & STAFF UPDATE- Directora Ibarra discussed the comprehensive achieve plan (CAP) which is a school improvement plan. All Title I schools have already done it—now BV is doing it. There are four main indicators: educator effectiveness, district and school climate and culture, family and community involvement, and teaching and learning. What results is a living document—a document that tells us what the next things are that we need to be working on. Site Council is working on group agreements and norms.

There is a Math Open House coming up. 4J is piloting two new programs - Engage New York and LearnZillion. This is the opportunity to learn more about them.

There have already been four teacher collaboration meetings—two meetings for each grade. They meet biweekly. Right now, they are focused on data and looking at strategies in the classroom. They are looking at Spanish benchmarks.

Directora Ibarra indicated she received a call from a school neighbor – there was a hit and run on Queens Blvd. The families on Queens Blvd. are upset because parents are turning around in their driveways and parking and blocking their driveways. There are also safety concerns for students on foot and on bicycle. Those present wondered about signs and cones to indicate the parking rules. There was also a suggestion that we do something for the neighbors at the holidays. Finally, there was a suggestion that we get parents into the parking lot to patrol and act as crossing guards. Someone suggested a Parking Chair be added to BVPO.

INTERPRETER – Ben asked the group about having an interpreter at BVPO. At this point whether it is paid or volunteer is not clear; there are many issues but it may bring in more parents. Someone asked whether we could ask a bilingual parent to interpret. There are a lot of parents who want to come, but some need to be invited and some may need a bilingual meeting. Someone brought up the Amity Interns, but they cannot do this because it is a Visa issue and not what they are here to do. Several parents present indicated they thought they could do simultaneous translation. One parent mentioned that River Road has headsets to make it easier and there will be follow up to determine how they obtained those. Separate meetings would defeat the purpose. The meeting concluded with a plan to continue to explore the issue and invite more parents to future meetings.