

Buena Vista Parent Organization – Minutes – December 7, 2015

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Tim Bruegman, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions. The following people introduced themselves: Tim Bruegman, Amy Potter, Deb Havel, Kelly Fenley, Nonie Ganakis, Angie Marzano, Sydney Koh, Gretchen Ruddick, Heidi Gese, Ben Gese, Amy Birney, Ben Temple, Autumn Christopherson, Leah Dessler Tiffany Wright, Juan Cuadros Gail Spinks, Gina Olson

SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATES - Gina Olson and Juan Cuadros provided the update on the new safety committee and safety improvements. A school resource officer will attend a future meeting. The safety committee has had two meetings. The goal of safety committee is to support the school and facilitate safety in school. Includes big and small things - custodial issues, mass tragedies, traffic. Some recent developments: the staff will be going through ALICE training on January 5 and the front doors are now locked. The committee is talking about camera on outer doors and locking double doors. The camera would cost approximately \$3500 and it is unclear if the district would cover the cost.

Juan Cuadros explained that the growth over last couple of years (from 245 to over 400) has been significant which has created a safety issue. There are 5 part time EAs which leaves gaps in coverage, for example, in the front office. Right now we need volunteers and then, we need a long term solution. One issue is allocations because allocations were made based on how the schools was structured in the beginning and despite growth, we have had to work within existing constraints. Juan has talked to HR and risk management and he is trying to fix for the next hiring round. Juan is going to make sure there is front desk coverage during student contact time from 8:00 am – 2:40pm. There has been a change at school opening and closing – parents must sign in and get a badge. This is inconvenient but important. There is also talk of a gate in the back area which would make it more secure (and might make it possible to bring back the school garden). Juan will go to the district for staffing issues, but it may be necessary to come to the BVPO for funds for locks etc. The parking situation is a real issue. It is not a good use of Juan's time to monitor the parking lot. A volunteer would be great, but no one has agreed to do it. As a rule of thumb don't ever park up front and don't leave your car up front. Drop off has gotten better but pick up is still terrible. They are looking at signs.

The next meeting of the safety committee will be December 15 at 8:30am and the risk manager will be there. The safety committee is going to organize a parent meeting for January where the risk manager (Randi Bowers Paine) will give a safety presentation. If we can continue momentum, she will sponsor ALICE training for parents. Tim raised the issue that it was necessary to make the safety committee an official committee.

Motion to Form Safety Committee and Elect Gina Olson Chair

A motion was made to create the safety committee and to elect Gina as chair and there was a second. A vote was taken and no opposition was noted.

Resolved:

The safety committee was formed and Gina Olson was elected chair.

GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE - Nonie Ganakis presented on the Great kindness challenge. This is a one week event from Jan 25-29 (hoping for annual event) and 4 million students are participating. This is a school based curriculum and kids have a week to participate. They will be doing acts of kindness and each class has a goal to come up with. There is website greatkindnesschallenge.org

BUDDY BENCH - The buddy bench is being donated by Keri Papé and will be installed by 4J before lunes luminoso on Jan 11. The buddy bench is a bench that a student can go sit on if he/she wants a friend to play with. The kids will participate in a role play on the buddy bench to learn about it and there will be signs.

BRING RECYCLING PROPOSAL - RETHINK SCHOOLS – Angie Marzano presented a proposal by BRING recycling to have a pilot program at Buena Vista called rethink schools. BRING started as a private recycler but transformed into the home of second chances – they sell reused business products and consult on natural resource conservation. The mission is to help people understand how the stuff we use impacts us. BRING has a rethink business program already. They go into local businesses and consult on natural resource conservation. They do site visits and make recommendations on how businesses can improve. Rethink schools would be similar – they want to work with schools to improve conservation. The proposal for Buena Vista is that BRING will come in and do a site audit and look at lighting, water, and waste steam and suggest improvements. They do a cost benefit analysis so that the school and administration can see the savings over time. This is a free program but they do need the support of administrators, teachers and parents because it will be a change. The 4th and 5th graders will be involved in the waste audit. Changes, for example, composting, will require staff and student assistance. Sheldon High School is starting in January. Wade will be an important part of this process. The issue was raised that maybe we could pay for a substitute so that Wade could go do a site visit at a school that is already composting. BRING will also work with the 4th and 5th grade teachers. The parent group expressed support for the program. No vote was necessary to participate, but a vote was required on paying for a sub for Wade.

Motion to Expenditure of up to \$300 for Substitute For Wade

A motion was made to expend up to \$300 in order to allow Juan to hire a substitute for a day so Wade could shadow a custodian at a school that has already

implemented some of the potential BRING suggestions including composting and there was a second. A vote was called and not opposition was noted.

Resolved:

The BVPO will reimburse Buena Vista up to \$300 to hire a substitute custodian for one day while Wade does a site visit.

SCHOOL GARDEN - Nonie Ganakis presented on the possibility of bringing back the garden. The place where the old garden was is wasted space, the area is open and accessible and after hours, it is a place where people hang out and smoke. Placing a gate there would make it possible to bring back the garden and increase security. The garden cannot start without the gate. In the interim, it costs \$40 to join the school garden project. The school garden project has a school curriculum and provides starts and tools. There is not a garden committee yet. It will need to be formed. Right now, they would like to start by joining the school garden project to get access to all the resources there.

Motion to Spend \$40 to Join School Garden Project

There was a motion to approve the \$40 expenditure so that the school can join the school garden project and there was a second. A vote was called and there was no opposition.

Resolved:

The BVPO will spend \$40 to join the school garden project.

OSEA FIRST BOOK OPPORTUNITY AT BUENA VISTA - Willagillespie and Bertha Holt are Title I schools that can get free books, but only if they get 2,000 signatures which they do not have. Parents present helped the schools out by filling out forms. Buena Vista will then receive some of the books.

OPHELIA'S PLACE (ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM) UPDATE - Tim provided the update on the anti-bullying program. The program is finished and the interns raved about how good our 4th and 5th graders behaved and listened. There were also teacher and parent programs, but there was not a program for EAs. This is something that may need to be addressed given the amount of contact EAs have with these situations. Surveys will be sent out to evaluate the programs.

AMITY UPDATE - Everything going well is going well with Amity and the interns are transitioning to their second and final families soon. Approximately two weeks ago, Juan met formally with the interns and passed on a general message about professionalism. There have not ben any incidents here but it is a good message.

SCHOOL AFFAIRS UPDATE:

- **Coffee Chat update** - the coffee chat was a big hit.

- **Holiday Break Food Drive Update** – this is coming up and the plan is to give each family a \$100 gift card. The expectation is there will be about 30 families.
- **Spirit Gear Update** - orders are processing and will be ready for pick up before break.
- **Coin Drive** – the coin drive raised just shy of \$1500 in loose change
- **BoxTops** - the still processing
- **Book Fair** – the book fair went well and totals will be provided at the next meeting
- **Other** - Juan completed his task and wore pirate gear today –he promised this if the students raised enough at jog-a-thon

SCHOOL SPIRIT UPDATE – From December 7-18 the students will be working on spirit when no one is watching and they will be looking for students and classes being kind and helpful. The winning class will get popcorn or extra recess. After the holidays, there will be more things coming. Look for announcements!

FIESTA UPDATE – Fiesta is Friday April 15. Please consider the date because it would be nice to sign up for next year immediately after this year’s Fiesta. It is not going to be possible for do it from January – March because of the Hult Center schedule. The format will be the same as last year – a bilingual presentation. They will try to have the program translated in advance.

TREASURER UPDATE - Todd was not present so there was no update. The issue of the capital committee was raised. It had not met since the last meeting, but Juan mentioned that they had talked about the money at site council. Juan had mentioned the possibility of improving technology at the school and dividing the money by grade level needs. There was a very positive reaction to both possibilities.

SITE COUNCIL – Ben Temple raised the issue of the Generosity Feeds weekend food program. The program provides packaged food for students to take home for the weekend. There is a food packaging event where approximately 300 people package sufficient food to get 1600 packets for the next school year. We would distribute as necessary. It would stay confidential (would be placed in book bags by number). This has been a very successful program. There are 95 students on free and reduced lunch at BV – there is a need. To participate with the other schools (Monroe and Bertha Holt) we would need to pay \$3000 (1/3 of the cost – covers food and the team to come out and run the packaging event). We are talking about starting next fall. In order to do so, we would need to do the packaging event in the spring. We need to make a commitment. Some concerns were raised first, about the costs and second, as to whether there was a local options. In terms of the fundraising, there was a discussion of corporate sponsorship. Several members present agreed to reach out to local companies. Anyone who has a contact with a

local company that may want to sponsor this should contact Ben. In terms of local options, a couple of members agreed to follow up on that issue, but as the discussion continued everyone seemed to agree that it would be difficult to replicate this existing program when one considers that the food is packaged and stored for up to one year. The final decision on joining the program will be deferred until January in the hopes that at least a couple of corporate sponsors can be found.

Both Sarah and Ben are done with their Site Council terms next year - if you want to be on site council, talk to Ben or Sarah.

They may be reducing the artist in residence next year because the same folks have been used over and over. Let them know if you have suggestions for art activities.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE - An update was provided on Smarter balance testing. The school did outstanding and there was less anxiety this year. The test results are available online at the Oregon Department of Education. There used to be a ratings system but this year they are not rating the schools. In the past years we have been a 5/above average.

Juan also added that we took the snap assessment which assesses language proficiency (speaking, reading, and writing). The students did very well. The program is working: 3rd graders are at proficient level and 5th graders higher meaning they are getting more proficient. What we are seeing is that the longer the students are in program the more proficient they are.

The new 5th grade teacher will start before winter break. She will have time to observe Sra. Long and Sr. Llama. She will also be observing other classrooms in other grades.