

**Buena Vista Parent Organization Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2016**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Ben Temple, President, welcomed everyone and called for introductions. The following members signed in: Ben Temple, Todd Grigsby, Colby Huling, Laura Lee, Amy Birney, Amy Potter, Amy Peterson, Melissa Ibarra, Kelly Finley, Victoria Palacios, Ashley LaVelle, Nicole Wilson, Ben Gese, Heidi Gese, George Bosch, Ben Hinde, Tiffany Wright, Autumn Christopherson, Heidi Grigsby, Gretchen Ruddick, Lisa Kovacevic, Keri Pape, Carmel Colgrove-Lakhani, Lindsay Poulsen, Maryam

OPEN POSITIONS: Ben reminded the group about open positions: Vice President, ENews, Library Volunteer Coordinator, and Fundraising for Next Year.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE: Melissa Ibarra updated the group about teacher collaborations which happen on Thursday. The focus is on instruction. It started in September by looking at common core and how we are meeting the needs of all students. Also, looking at how do we use current curriculum with students and considering the trends in certain grades, do we need to focus on certain areas. Need to teach for everyone, not just the bottom 20%. They are gathering data every six weeks and trying to look at it more closely. The conferences went well and surveys were positive. Many parents are setup with Remind, but the school did reach out to families with limited internet and families they didn't hear from. One parent asked if there is a way to make it easier for families that have siblings in different grades to get times close to each other. There was a discussion of electronic signup vs manual signup. The opinions were mixed but many parents present liked being able to sign up electronically. The teachers appreciated the dinners. The Leadership team and Site Council have been discussing the district wide Immersion task force and Superintendent vision. They are also meeting with the middle school to determine whether BV students are prepared for 6th grade in Spanish.

SITE COUNCIL: Amy Birney provided the update on Site Council which meets the Thursday before the BVPO. Site Council is a meeting with all the stakeholders at the school and looks at all elements that involve implementing the curriculum. They are also preparing to launch the school improvement assessment, but are waiting on direction and resources from the district. She finally tracked down the EEF grants from last year: \$500 for OBOB books and \$2000 for BizTown for 5th graders. But, based on feedback from teachers, BizTown is being discontinued. It was taking 40 hours of instruction which showed up in drops in key assessments that school would prefer not to see. The question is what to do about the grant. We should be able to submit new grants and it will likely be awarded to be spent this year. Two idea (1) Literature based socio-emotional behavior curriculum for

Kindergarten - teachers have ideas to gather materials and (2) Buy two new xylophones for the music room. We can resubmit those grants each month. Both ideas take about \$1000 each. There was an extensive discussion of BizTown. The teacher input was that it was just too much, took away from much needed instruction and it is taught more at the middle school level. Several parents expressed how much the students enjoyed it and it was valuable information. Those present indicated it would be great to be open to considering BizTown it in the future.

AMITY PROGRAM: Lisa K provided the update on the 5 interns. Sandy Jacobson and Richard Llamas supervise the interns along with Melissa. They rolled out new program to help interns collaborate more with teachers because last year they did not get to grow as teachers. The plan was to have the interns arrive at 7:45am and stay until 3:30pm. (Last year they came at 8:20am and left at 2:30pm). The only issue is that this has created problems with transportation. There was a meeting last week and it was decided that they would come in with the host families in the morning and still stay until 3:30pm every day except Friday (when they go home with the host family). On Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 they do their own work with Amity Program. Melissa did a survey with the teachers before the meeting and the program is going well. In January, they will start looking for host families again. The issue of a rideshare to assist Amity Interns and whether more people (not just the host families) could participate was raised. They are not quite ready to roll it out to the entire school—there are bugs that still need to be worked out. Considering a list that the interns can contact if rides are needed.

TREASURER UPDATE: Todd provided a look at the budget to date. He thanked Jessica Bonin, a CPA and BV parent, who does the BVPO taxes and goes through our books and files state paperwork. We will need a CPA next year. Todd reminded everyone responsible for capital budget projects that he needs regular updates on the projects and things need to be cleared. For example, one of the things with the garden was not up to code. The gym equipment has been paid for already. The District has found money to put go kits in schools so it is not clear if that funding is needed. There was a question about whether that could be rolled into other projects. There is also a reminder that some of the expenses need to go to a board vote or other conditions need to be met before funds can be spent. The BVPO has raised \$19,170 since Sept.1.

FUNDRAISING: Maryam provided an update on Jog-a-Thon which raised about \$17,7773 after expenses. The Jog-a-Thon this year had more expenses because every child was provided a t-shirt. They also did it earlier this year and there was not as much marketing and no assembly. There are no more Monday morning assemblies which they often used to market the Jog-a-Thon. They will work on this

next year. They are working on finding a partner for next year. Also, they will need people to take over planning after next year.

The pancake breakfast and photo shoot raised about \$1000. We can discuss at a future meeting whether we should continue this fundraiser. The next dinner club is at Chipotle on Tuesday November 15. One parent mentioned that last year we sent home with stickers to remind families and it raised a lot of money. There was a discussion about trying something like that for all the dinners. The Papa's Pizza Coupon sales are moving to January, but there is a date for expiration on the coupons and it will now be closer to the sale time. We will need to communicate this issue. The coupons cannot be reprinted.

Subasta which is a dinner and Auction is in February. The form went home requesting donations. This is a big event for us because the proceeds are a major source of fundraising for this year and next year. We usually make about \$40,000 total. Ben is the Subasta Chair and there are a lot of people helping.

One parent mentioned that a flyer went out announcing all the fundraiser and it was a great idea.

SCHOOL AFFAIRS: Heidi provided the update. The committee met this morning and they are working on trying to figure out communication--how much is enough and how much is too much?

The conference dinners went well. Sydney Koh has agreed to do the Carnival again next year. Thanksgiving baskets will be provided by group of local churches. We have 20 families who have requested baskets. For the Winter holiday, Victoria is organizing and we are doing a winter break box not a Holiday meal—this will be food to eat over the break. We are going to get more granola from Food for Lane County, but will need other donations. She will do announcements to Facebook with information and signups to bring in food—we will need certain amounts. They will have a collection bin and the computer lab is a storage place. One parent mentioned that we have gotten milk vouchers from Dari Mart in the past.

LIBRARY AND BOOK FAIR: Tiffany announced that the Book Fair is Dec 5-9 and opening day is Dec.3. There will be a volunteer link through scholastic. Library volunteers are still needed for certain grades. They help with finding books. Tiffany has a list of open spots and may need to resend.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR and GARDEN: Ben Hinde announced that he met with the Costa Rica team and they discussed savings account. As things develop, he can report out. He is reaching out to local groups about maybe having BV representation at local events. Once he gets some ideas, he will bring them to group. The environmental discussion sections will be working in garden on

Sunday. He is having them get donations for the garden and fill out grant applications for garden. A parent asked whether the Costa Rica group is having any discussions about when to get next year's 5th graders involved. Tammy Zepeda leads this year's group and you can meet with her to discuss involving current 4th graders.

BUENA VISTA TRIATHLON: Brian and Emily Keedy want to take over the triathlon. They are looking at the last Monday of the school year (June 12). They will check on the pool for this date. They will need the assistance of grade level reps to help with communication and the support of treasurer to deal with application fees. Todd and Heidi agreed. It is for 3rd – 5th grade and last year had about 80-90 students, but this year there is also more buzz. Girls on the Run also may support it.

The issue came up about contracts – contracts for BVPO events should not be signed by parents. For anything that occurs during the day, we are covered by 4J liability and the principal needs to sign these.

Final comment – they are short balls during recess, so if you have extra balls lying around, bring them in.