

Bennett Community Organization Minutes – January 11, 2011

Attendees: Deana Davalos, Rob Wessel, Deb Couture, Melissa MacEachran, Murielle Watzky, Ann Randall, Sharyl Haas, Gretchen Gerding, Donna Boudreau, Angela Guggemos, Margot Ganster, Aleki Davis, Megan Finnerty, Murielle Watzky, Michael Schooler

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Donna Boudreau.

Budget Update: Just a couple transactions – salary for the kitchen worker for the Chili Supper and prizes from the Stampede. A couple questions – where does the Target money in the budget come from? Where do we send the box tops and Campbell's soup labels? Another idea for a fundraiser is to donate \$.10 for your bags at Whole Foods – schools are included in that. Capri Sun pouches can be redeemed for cash too. We should also investigate a shopping portal where the school benefits anytime someone uses it for shopping.

Grant Requests: Cyd Johnson attended the meeting and thanked BCO for the grant for the empty bowls program. The bowls are in the display case by the office. She had some leftover glaze and will use it for a project for Alzheimers. Cyd also submitted a grant for \$800 for a set of 24 smart clickers to be used with smart boards. Kids love it. Kids get immediate feedback because they see if they get the correct answer right after they answer the question. Mrs. Matson, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Estrada have smart boards. Mr. Schooler said we have another set of clickers for the classroom tvs. We still have \$2285 to give in grants. We could fund part of the request and Mr. Schooler could try and come up with the rest of the funds. We decided to wait until the next meeting February 1 to see what other grant requests come in for the February 1 deadline. Mr. Schooler will look into getting matching funds from the bond issue.

Sock Hop: Gretchen Gerding reported that the plans for the sock hop are going well. We will have a cake walk, letter writing for Otim Tom in the art room, coffee and games in the music room, the Usborne book fair in the library, and possibly a photo booth. We have a photographer lined up who will take pictures but we need to order them after the event and deliver them to the Thursday folder. Food for sale will be popcorn, goldfish, strawberry chex mix, gogurts, lemonade, Capri sun, and bottled water. Sharyl will send an email asking for volunteers – Gretchen is coordinating. Ann and Sharyl will help set up the coffee. We will ask parents to monitor their kids to try and keep it from getting too wild.

Appreciation Committee: Deanna reported that they switched it up to have 4th and 5th grade families bring food for the next appreciation luncheon. The date is Monday, January 24th.

International Day: Friday, April 22 will be International Day. Clarisa and Mark will run it again. Will BCO support gift certificates again for volunteers? We need more parent volunteers for the event to help greet people.

After School Classes update: There are some questions – it was decided that the person running the class will be responsible. They will collect the money and pay the school district. There are a couple people who want to offer classes – a Theatre class, art class, and yoga class are all

options. Maybe offer something before soccer season starts. BCO is encouraging people who want to offer classes. We could possibly offer classes before school as well.

Coordinating parent volunteers: Laurel is going to come up with job descriptions for different jobs in the school for parents.

Volunteer Coordinator position: Sharyl is only at Bennett for one more year. We are looking for someone to take this on for Bennett. There is a required training and you work closely with Laurel. The person is responsible for sending out emails through the PSD system to volunteers. There might also be parents who don't pass the screening, so some sensitivity is required.

Spring fundraiser: Nicole Hallenbeck said that the instruments in the school need to be replaced. It would be a \$15,000 investment from BCO. Parents seemed willing to participate in more fundraisers according to the results of the parent survey. Deana discussed a fundraiser idea – a spelling bee. The parents and families pledge a certain amount per word that the kids spell. It raised \$14,000 at Dunn. Mr. Schooler said he doesn't have any funding for anything extra such as instruments right now, so it would be a good thing to fund. Parents also are very supportive of specials. The fundraiser would be geared toward a very specific purpose such as the instruments.

Principal's Report: Mr. Schooler reported that the school needs to plan for an \$80,000 cut next year (4%). It could be worse. He will hopefully be able to make up some of it with the bond that passed. Tax revenues may be down at the state because of property tax revenues going down.

The school board is voting on recommendations for school closing and consolidations tonight. They are planning to close Beatty and move those students to Lopez and Johnson. We are 50 percent school of choice and pull kids from Beatty, Irish, and Putnam. The Ponds will go to Bauder next year. The busses will run for another couple years to transition those kids out. SIT and SAC will be discussing numbers for next year. We will get some new students as a result of the boundary changes – we may go four track in some other grades to keep class sizes smaller. BCO might want to reach out to new families next year and welcome them and help their transition.

Three IB schools are holding an open house at Bennett on Thursday night. A couple weeks later is the kindergarten open house. JFK exchange is looking good. Twenty families are signed up. Three teachers are going to go – Ms. Shayner from here. Ms. Merry and Ms. Meadows are going out on maternity leave. There is a long term sub hired for Ms. Merry. Ms. Anderson is stepping in for Ms. Meadows. The SIT team is looking at the process by which parents request teachers and possibly making changes to it – asking parents to fill out a form. We have a new cafeteria worker – he's a certified teacher who's also helping in literacy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. Next meeting will be on February 1.