

Bennett Community Organization Minutes – March 1, 2011

Attendees: Deana Davalos, Deb Couture, Gretchen Gerding, Donna Boudreau, Michael Schooler, Melissa MacEachran, James Owiny, Shannon Browning, Ann Randall

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

Budget Update: We only have a \$25 difference in the balance between this meeting and the last meeting which was for the gift card for Duane for his help at the Sock Hop.

Appreciation Committee: Appreciation potluck is now April 4. Teacher appreciation week is the week of May 2. The appreciation committee will order coffee for the teachers one day too.

International Day: Friday, April 22 will be International Day – which is also Earth Day. Christina Cash who is a Bennett parent runs the Sustainability Fair. She would like to present on sustainability and how it is common to all cultures. Mr. Schooler is recommending that she present to the kids by splitting them into two groups – younger kids and older kids. There is a letter ready to go home from Clarisa asking for parent volunteers to present.

Book Fair: Coming up this spring.

Spring fundraiser: Mrs. Hallenbeck will generate a list of grade-appropriate words for the spelling bee. April 29 is the proposed date. We will give the kids two weeks to study the words. Twenty words per grade level except maybe Kindergarten and first grade. The teacher planning teams can decide how many are appropriate. At the next meeting we will have a draft of what will go home to parents. Donna and Deana and Nicole will present the project to the teachers at a staff meeting so they are aware of the details.

Otim Tom: James Owiny reported that the Otim Tom Friendship Club was thinking of either changing to a third grade program since they have an Africa unit, or possibly meeting again in the mornings as they did last year. James wants to set up a foundation and fundraise to sponsor a teacher exchange. James and Megan's youngest child is leaving Bennett for middle school next year, so we need to possibly recruit some current parents to take over. Donna will talk to Molly about putting something in the newsletter.

Gold C: No more Gold C for northern Colorado. The Entertainment book will be offered for next year, but they cost \$25, so we will need to revisit it for Bennett. We could possibly sell them in the office next year if it feels like too much to send home a \$25 book.

Principal's Report: Two goals from SAC committee meeting – take the IB program to the next level and also focus on reading. Our academic performance is good – we are on track to meet most of goals.

Budget– there's lots of gloom and doom from the state level. Bennett will probably have to make a 3 percent cut which is \$60,000 – 70,000. We've saved back \$80,000 so we should be okay for the budget.

Kindergarten waiting list was 125 families – Mr. Schooler reported he decided to take 3 classes of Kindergarteners. They are down to number 32 on the list right now.

German exchange program – having a social event tomorrow – about 11 Bennett students participating.

Exhibition – coming up for 5th grade. Info will be in the newsletter.

4th grade teachers are excited about the clickers and want to host the BCO meeting in one or their classrooms. Teachers also appreciate the money for resources which BCO decided to grant at the last meeting.

District Principal's meeting – do we want to have a Facebook page for Bennett? Mr. Schooler will discuss it with the staff and see about the possibility. It was recommended that we post to it every day if we have a page.

We could think about buying an Xbox with Kinects and have that as a resource for teachers for movement and dance on indoor recess days.

The Capri Sun pouches can be collected and recycled and the school would get \$.02 per pouch. There's a company that recycles them and turns them into other products. We could collect them in the lunch room. Melissa will sign us up for an account.

Mr. Schooler is still working on the volunteer training and job descriptions for specific areas for parents and wants to roll it out for next year for sure.

Service project – Ann will look into doing a clean up project or tree project this spring.

James Owiny reported that the City of Fort Collins gives some awards – both human relations and women's boards give awards so go to the city website for more info if you have nominees.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Next meeting will be on April 5.