

Bennett Community Organization Minutes – November 2, 2010

Attendees: Deana Davalos, Rob Wessel, Jill Lowry, Kandace Majoros, Deb Couture, Melissa MacEachran, Murielle Watzky, Amy Adolph, Ann Randall, Sharyl Haas, Gretchen Gerding, Donna Boudreau, Angela Guggemos, Sarah Roberts, Margot Ganster, Sheri Parker, Kris Baugh, Aleki Davis, Lori Baerenstecher, Michael Schooler

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Donna Boudreau.

Blevins Middle School representative: Bryan Davis, assistant principal, came to talk about Blevins Middle School and show a video. He is interested in encouraging more kids from Bennett to attend Blevins rather than Leshler. A majority of students from Bennett choiced into Leshler last year. Blevins has a very inclusive environment with high academic standards. It is good preparation for AP courses at Rocky Mountain High School. They have a pre-AP curriculum – can also take single courses. Diversity statistics – 20 percent Hispanic, 35 percent free and reduced lunch. At the beginning of the year, they have a day long orientation with the 6th graders to introduce them to everything – rules, how to open locker, etc. 533 students, 27 or 28 per class. Bryan’s email is Bryand@psdschools.org, 970-488-4002 if anyone has questions for him.

Budget Update: Deb Couture reported that the stampede results were not recorded yet in the budget printout – we have \$12,806 cash on hand. Gold C coupons – we made \$1229. Cash advance for chili supper and book fair for \$500 and \$1000 taken out for curriculum parties for the end of the year. We also funded Molly Babcock’s sketch book request. We grossed \$18,400 for the Stampede, with more coming in. After prizes, estimated net will be \$15,000. We budgeted less.

Grant Requests: Sid Johnson reported that the fourth graders are working on an inquiry in service called Making a Difference. She wants the fourth graders to work on the empty bowls event to benefit the Food Bank. All of fourth grade will participate. Each student will make one bowl. **The grant request for \$150 to purchase clay and glazes for this project was approved.**

Bronco Stampede: Stampede was a huge success, best ever taking in over \$18,000 before prizes. Sharyl Haas reported that there was a misunderstanding with the Giving Back book fair coupon prize. Some people checked it but really didn’t want the prize, or just donated \$20 total which wouldn’t qualify them for the book fair certificate. Some kids were disappointed when they didn’t win a medal and quit running when they realized they wouldn’t reach the number of required laps. Some quit running when they had already reached the medal goal. Matt Bray made the number of laps challenging so the kids would push themselves. The committee will have to decide for next year whether we give medals. We need some new committee members – contact Sharyl Haas if you can work on the planning committee for next year. Book Fair certificates will come out this week – most of the other prizes will be in next week’s Thursday folders.

Chili Supper: Sheri Parker reported on the salad bar. Healthy Kids Club can’t provide the salad anymore, so she will get carrot sticks along with the cookies from Sam’s. Tortilla Marisa’s will provide veggie chili (in addition to chips and salsa). We’ll give them some money to help cover

the cost of chili. Milk from Meadow Gold is a donation. We will have a parent to hand out the cookies. Wendy will need help next year with this event, as Sheri has a 5th grader and won't be at Bennett any longer.

Book Fair: Murielle Brewer reported that the books are here already. We'll close up on the following Wednesday after the Chili Supper at 10:30 a.m.. Starting a day early allows the organizers to restock to have enough books for the Chili Supper. Margot Ganster reported she has 29 people who contacted her to volunteer. She has scheduled 3-4 people during the chili supper per shift. Murielle Brewer reported that the class reps helped recruit volunteers and that helped a lot.

Service Project: Sharyl Haas reported that the project is also taking place at the Chili Supper. Assembling of food boxes will take place in the art room. We are short on food. Reminder will go out in the Thursday newsletter. Hopefully people will bring food before the Chili supper and not to the event. We have plenty of tea, oatmeal, and fruit. We can highlight the things we need – we are low on sweet potatoes, dried onions, graham cracker crust (pretty much everything else). Let Sharyl know if you can help after school on Tuesday to organize the food. We also need volunteers that evening to help with the baskets.

Appreciation Committee: Jill Lowry reported that there were nice donations of gifts for teachers. Really nice potluck – everyone participated who said they would. Teachers were very appreciative. First and second grade did a great job. Next one is already scheduled – 2nd and 3rd grade parents will contribute next time.

Sock Hop – Gretchen asked if any one had ideas for food? Should we have some healthy options? Gogurt? Cheese sticks, granola bars, apple slices? Pretzels, try some different choices. Kandace Majoros will help Gretchen Gerding with the event.

Fall Fundraiser Schedule: should we try and have a master calendar? Everything is going home at once. The art fundraiser, Stampede, fun gear, service project, etc. were all at once. We should post the info on the website – the attachments with the newsletter.

Results of parent survey: Got about 150 responses back. Most parents who responded were not feeling bombarded by fundraising opportunities. The consensus was that nobody wants to sell anything. About 91 parent volunteers said they would be available between 2 and 10 hours a month, so Donna will pass those names along and try to facilitate volunteering. It's apparent that the teachers need help, but they have a hard time training and organizing the volunteers.

Principal's Report: Mr. Schooler reported how great Bennett is. We had the first Stampede in town – over a third of schools now have one.

Mr. Schooler had a terrific time in Germany in Berlin at the JFK school. 20 fifth graders came over and stayed with our families last spring. They want us to send our kids. They invited Mr. Schooler to come and paid for his trip. Their mission is to improve U.S. Germany relations. We will host another 20 or 25 kids in May – we will send our kids in June for 10-14 days. Airfare and two staff members will get to go – hopefully under \$1500 per person. Risk management

worried about family stays. District is trying to help make it happen. Dunn, Bennett, McGraw, Leshner, Lincoln and Lab school will participate. We'll have a meeting here on November 11 – start on passport paperwork.

We had 30 IB visitors come through. We had 5 teachers from Olander. Bennett's reading results with at risk kids is almost the best in the district. They came to observe what we do here at Bennett. Thanks to our parent volunteers who read with younger kids.

Small outbreak of head lice – happens every year about twice. There is no need to panic – it happens regardless of how “clean” people are.

Math results – they are looking at how many kids are skipping Connected Math I in sixth grade? We want as many to test out as possible so they can get to algebra in 8th grade. We have 25 percent of Bennett kids testing out which is really good.

Technology request – Mr. Schooler needs about \$6,000 to cover the cost of the 5 remaining TV's needed in Bennett classrooms. We have some of the most impressive technology in the district. We could order them now and have them installed at Christmas break. We probably won't put them in the special ed classrooms, due to small numbers of students and concerns about destructive behaviors of students in some classes. Music and art classrooms need technology as well. TV's have a longer life than the smart boards, because the smart boards require projectors with bulbs that cost \$300 when they burn out. We could also think about getting microphones for teachers as that has been shown to be effective for learning.

Volunteers – we have lots of CSU volunteers – good college students. Teachers feel pressure when parents come in to be really organized. We could coordinate parents around blocks and accelerated math – train parents to be interventionists in reading, writing and math. Need to be consistent and show up – some parents aren't as consistent which makes teachers frustrated. Mr. Schooler and Laurel will try and take some coordination of the parent volunteers. Mr. Schooler wants to start using parents more. He will organize some parent volunteer trainings. Could also use help in the library and also with copying. Mr. Schooler will let us know what he needs help with.

Discussion of Technology Request – We have the money to fund it according to Deb. We were waiting for the Stampede to see if we have enough funds. Stampede did really well. **The grant request for \$6000 to finish outfitting all of the classrooms with technology was approved.**

We can think about another project since this finishes off the stampede.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next meeting will be on December 7.