

## **Bennett Community Organization Minutes – October 5, 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, Diane Wenzel, Margot Ganster, Kara Coyner, Vicki Cotton, Wendy Kahanek, Shannon Browning

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

**Budget Update:** Treasurer Deb Couture reported that there are not many expenses in yet. We've spent some on installation of TV's. Technology has been a focus over the last two years. We need about \$6,000 more to complete the technology project.

**Grant Requests:** We will have two grant cycles per year. BCO has allotted \$3000 for grant requests - \$1000 each for service, academics, and community projects, but we are not bound to that.

Molly Babcock submitted a grant request for \$300 for hard bound spiral art journals for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Questions that the group raised that Donna will ask Molly. Will the journals last for more than one year – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>? Has she looked to see where they are available at the cheapest price? Should it be added to the supply list for parents in future years? **Motion to fund Molly's request was approved.**

Alex Martin is requesting a grant for a document camera for the Behavioral Learning Center which serves special education students who have a behavioral disorder. Donna will first talk to Mr. Schooler about whether this project is already part of the broader plan to outfit the school with technology, and then BCO will revisit the request next month.

**Bennett Web Help:** Vicki Cotton has been working on updating the website such as search engine optimization, and adding a news feed with items from the newsletter. Student work – nothing current is posted there. What should we put in that section? Or should we take it down? If anyone has suggestions she would like to hear them. Art work and writing samples used to be posted there. It was suggested that we think about posting things that show the uniqueness of the school. One issue is how to go about asking teachers to send her info to post. Everyone agreed that it was important to focus on having a good quality website. Donna will facilitate communication with teachers to see if they are willing to provide samples of work for the website. Vicki can accept things in any format – hard copies to scan or electronic. Email Vicki at [vcotton@psdschools.org](mailto:vcotton@psdschools.org) with suggestions for the website.

**Update on Gold C:** We sold 258 books, and we receive \$4.50 for each one. Over 400 were sent home, loss was about 37 books, but we aren't responsible for the loss. We could improve the process since it presented some organizational challenges with collecting the money, and we also had to pull the paperwork that came with each book. We can evaluate it again after the Stampede is over and see if it impacts peoples' contributions. We should recruit a Gold C coordinator for next year.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Bronco Stampede:** Diane Wenzel reported that this is the 6<sup>th</sup> year. We raise about \$15,000 gross and about \$3,000 goes to prizes and expenses. All of the kids get a t-shirt whether they raise money or not. We are not doing the pep rally this year. Mr. Bray had the idea of using the student wellness team to go to the classrooms telling the kids about what's going on in the area of student wellness. They are promoting the Big Foot mileage club, the Stampede, and breakfast at school. T-shirts are donated by Healthy Kids Club, and Bennett must commit to putting the money back into wellness programs at the school. Healthy Kids Club can't provide snacks this year. Teachers can tell kids to bring a healthy snack and a water bottle that day and we can remind parents in the Thursday folder. There will be a raffle for a bike from Black Eye Bikes for all kids who bring in \$20 or more in pledges. Start time will be an hour later this year 9:50 a.m. Melissa will take over next year from Diane and Sharyl Haas will have just one more year after this. Deb Couture will also help next year. **We need someone to take over from Sharyl who contacts businesses to see if they can support the Stampede with prizes.** Learning Express is doing a discount on gift cards and some of the prizes. Need to pick up the prizes after the event and get them out to the kids in the Thursday folders within two weeks. There is an option for families to forego the prize and take a \$5 coupon to the book fair instead so that more money goes back to the school. We need lots of volunteers to help on the day of the Stampede. Volunteer forms are on the pledge forms. **We need someone for this year to help set up music outside for the event. We're also looking for rewards for teachers who participate this year and they can put their names in for a drawing for a prize. Talk to Diane if you have something to donate.**

**Chili Supper/Craft Fair:** Wendy Kahanek reported on the Chili Supper – they are requesting \$100 for cookies from Sam's Club. Spoons would cost \$240 for veggie chili. We usually get 5 gallons – from Avo's it was only \$5 per gallon, but they were hard to work with. Mad Greens, Macalister's, and Rainbow Restaurant were suggested as options for chili – it was also suggested that we work with some of the Bennett families who own restaurants – Tortilla Marisa's and Domenic's. There might also be a possibility of charging more for the vegetarian chili option when people buy tickets. **The motion to spend \$100 for cookies was approved.**

**Book Fair:** Murielle Watzky and Margot Ganster reported there will be an extra day of the Book Fair this year. The fair will run Thursday, November 4 to the following Wednesday. There will be a notice in the newsletter to recruit volunteers to work at the Book Fair.

**Service Project:** Sharyl Haas reported that Blizzard Boxes will be prepared for seniors. They include meat, fruit, and fluids. We'll ask for donations of food, and pack the boxes during the Chili Supper possibly in the Art Room. Kindergarteners will decorate the plain white boxes. It's part of IB service. Laurel and Dunn will also participate. We will also do boxes for Project Self Sufficiency 60 of those and 75 of the Blizzard Boxes. We'll try and set it up by grade, so that each grade is asked to bring a different item for the boxes – it has to be canned meat with pop tops since some of the seniors have arthritis and Alzheimer's and can't use a can opener. We won't get to deliver them – Meals on Wheels will do that. It was suggested to do a video of all of these projects and show them to the kids, so they see the effect of their service projects. The stuffed animal project also has some great Nicaragua pictures. It was also suggested to show

pictures of service projects at each Bennett event on a big screen. Hopefully we'll get some thank you letters back from the seniors.

**Appreciation Committee:** Jill Lowry will be sending forms to Kindergarten and first grade parents asking for food for the first potluck which is October 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone did a getting to know you form this year (teachers and staff). There will be three potlucks all on Mondays.

**State Accountability Committee Update:** The SAC includes parent representatives from each school. BCO officers and Ann Randall are on the committee – Rob Wessel expressed interest in attending as well. It meets four times per year. Mr. Schooler works with the teachers on setting goals for the school for increasing accountability based on lots of data regarding student achievement. The SAC must approve the goals, and they will be shared with parents.

**PSD 101:** Rob Wessell reported on the educational seminar put on by the district and said there was lots of good information provided.

**Mrs. Henk** thanked BCO for the partial grant for the iPad.

**Parent surveys** are due back by Friday – we already have more than 80 turned in.

**Crossing guard update:** It was suggested that we do something in appreciation for this group from BCO. Part of the discussion was about whether we could have fifth graders do this job. It could be a liability. **The motion was approved to buy each crossing guard a \$5 gift card.**

We need a date for the **sock hop**. Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> was proposed and approved by the group.

Bennett has had requests for **scholarships for Ecoweek** for about \$1550. We've budgeted \$1200. Donna will talk to Michael about whether we need to vote on appropriating more funds for scholarships.

**Teacher Survey Review:** Technology for the classroom came out as a high priority. Teachers are requesting more help in the classroom. Parents sign up to help, but possibly it's a matter of teachers having enough time to organize volunteers. Perhaps the classroom reps could help by finding out the needs of the teacher and then help schedule the parent volunteers. It was optional for parents to sign names and emails on the survey but several signed up and offered to volunteer. Donna will separate by teacher and the class rep can contact them. It was suggested that we develop a school wide standard form for the teacher to fill out to express their needs and maybe a form for the parents with things they are willing to help with and where they can identify their expertise in a field and would be willing to give a presentation. Have a place in the work room for teachers to leave their copies in a basket and volunteers can do them when they come in.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30. Next meeting is Tuesday, November 2.**