

Bennett Community Organization Minutes – April 5, 2011

Attendees: Deana Davalos, Deb Couture, Gretchen Gerding, Donna Boudreau, Michael Schooler, Melissa MacEachran, Ann Randall, Aleki Davis, Murielle Brewer, Sharyl Haas, Kandace Majoros, Rob Wessel, Angela Guggemos

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

Budget Update: \$50 for the unit planner grants per class was paid out. Also the money for the e-clicker grant was paid. Teacher appreciation expenses are still to be incurred. Deb will put together a budget for next year to be approved at the May meeting – especially the expenses for before the Stampede. Eco week had an increased cost last year for scholarships – Michael will check with Mary Jo on the cost.

Appreciation Committee: Deanna Davalos reported that the appreciation potluck was April 4 – it was wonderful. Lots of gifts and food were provided. Teacher appreciation week is the week of May 2. We will do a gift card day, a coffee day, and ask parents to bring in sweets or snacks for the teachers, and also cards. We'll split it up according to grade level.

International Day: Friday, April 22 will be International Day – which is also Earth Day. We have 9 confirmed presenters. We need 16 volunteers in the morning which Sharyl is coordinating. Christina Cash who is a Bennett parent runs the Sustainability Fair and she is coordinating a presentation. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will go out on the playground and there will be three stations on various topics such as water and renewable energy. Then everyone will meet in the gym for the drumming presentation. Donna will find out if they need volunteers outside.

Book Fair: Murielle Brewer reported that the book fair is planned around the parent teacher conferences which are May 10 and 11. Book Fair will run May 6 – May 11 with unpacking on the 5th and packing on the 12th. Carnival is the theme.

Service Project: Ann Randall reported two possibilities – tree planting at the Boy Scout ranch, and the Healthy Kids Club community garden. The garden would be closer because it's in town. The date would be May 21. There's an opportunity for a class to do a project at the site where we planted trees last year, to spruce it up, weed etc. The solar array is also up there at the site now too. 5th graders also have to come up with an action project for exhibition, so the school could get behind those projects. Ann will give Donna the info for the tree planting for anyone who would like to participate. We will also provide the info for the community garden. For IB, kids are supposed to initiate the action projects – we are modeling action projects twice per year for families to participate.

Spring fundraiser: Deanna passed out a draft letter to go home about the spell-a-thon fundraiser. Donna had sent an email out to teachers and staff about the spell-a-thon. BCO volunteers will do the grading, so the teachers don't have to. Nicole will promote the spell-a-thon in music classes with the kids.

Parent Volunteer Program: How can we facilitate more parents being involved in the fall? We had a number of teachers in new grades and the new curriculum, so we haven't been able to implement a volunteer training program this year. But we have a great need for more parent help for the teachers. We would like to have a plan in place for the fall. We plan to have trainings for more involved work with kids, and parents will be asked to make a time commitment to help.

Principal's Report: Michael Schooler reported that the mill bond will raise \$8 million for the district before we start school this fall. Part of the money will offset some of the budget cuts from the state. The staff may be asked to take one furlough day next year as well. So Bennett's budget could turn out to be not as bad as feared. The voters and community support has been great. Bennett will get all new cafeteria tables, roofing and siding, and new parking lot. Lots of improvements planned for the summer because of the bond. Also new technology part of the bond will pay for all new computers every three years. Over 100 computers will be replaced this summer at Bennett. Every fifth grade classroom in the district will have a set of net books available. We already have good classroom technology, so Bennett can add improvements to some additional classrooms. They are also looking at providing every 9th grader with a laptop which they will use through 12th grade. CLP and Riffenburgh want to become IB schools.

Odyssey of the Mind went well – Bennett teams did well. We are losing our Bennett Odyssey of the Mind coordinator. We need someone to take this on. Poudre needs to get in line with the state rules now for the OM competition, so that will add a layer next year. Michael will ask the current coordinator to write up a job description.

There's a meeting set up with Construction Management for the green house. Design is forthcoming. The next stage will be fundraising.

There will be a form on the website for parents to request teachers. There has to be a detailed explanation as to why the specific teacher is being requested. Classes are balanced by gender, ability, learning styles, behavior issues, etc. There's an open house in January where parents can come and observe teachers.

Exhibition coaches are needed to work with the 5th graders. Please consider volunteering. Exhibition is the first step for many of the individual projects required in the IB program.

King Soopers Certificates: We should consider offering the King Soopers gift cards which you can reload with your credit card to benefit Bennett. Deb will look into it.

Website: Next year we should update the website so people can submit their directory information online. We also talked about posting a calendar of events for parents.

Rob Wessel reported that district may need parent volunteers to help score grants from schools. Please email Rob.Wessel@yahoo.com if you are interested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Next meeting will be on May 3.