

Bennett Community Organization Minutes – February 15, 2011

Attendees: Deana Davalos, Rob Wessel, Deb Couture, Gretchen Gerding, Donna Boudreau, Angela Guggemos, Michael Schooler, Rob Wessel, Amy Adolph

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

Budget Update: Deb reported the only activity for January is the sock hop expenses and income. We took in \$2380.60 with \$587.09 in expenses. We still need to pay out AR Reading and Math before the end of the year, as well as graduation, lost book replacement; we won't need to pay Book Trust this year. We also still owe for volunteer appreciation this year.

Grant Requests: We didn't receive any new grant requests – outstanding is the grant request from Cyd Johnson for clickers. Mr. Schooler said that possibly later in the year with the new program of inquiry teachers might need new materials as there are new program of inquiry standards from the state. They are very IB oriented. It's a good opportunity for Bennett to redo the program of inquiry. Human body moves a grade level, for example, so the teachers need to do new central ideas and lines of inquiry. Mr. Schooler suggested we give each grade level a certain amount to devote to new teaching resources. He said he could possibly cover some teacher hourly salary to pull new resources together this summer. It was decided to fund Cyd Johnson's grant request of \$800 for clickers and also devote \$250 per each class level to buy resources. That will take care of all of the grant funds for the year.

Sock Hop: Gretchen and Kandace reported on the event. Fewer people this year account for less revenue but still a great success. It seemed less crazy this year – possibly due to improved hall monitoring. We didn't have as many cakes at the cakewalk, but still had enough to keep going the whole night. We will get a \$25 restaurant gift certificate for Duane the custodian who helped set up and cleaned up the school afterwards. Suggestions for next year: move the photo booth to a more obvious location, station a volunteer in the room with the coats and shoes to discourage kids from hanging out in there and lock the door between the lounge and library.

Appreciation Committee: Deana reported that they want to do a coffee day - \$175 and also \$175 for gift certificates for teachers the week of May 2. \$50 additional would be for decorating the lunchroom and flowers. Could put something in the newsletter for people to donate desserts that week for the teachers. New coffee shop on Elizabeth has brought over free coffee a couple times – we should order from them. Momo Lolo (or something like that). \$500 is budgeted so we are within the budget. The last appreciation luncheon is April 11.

International Day: Friday, April 22 will be International Day. Clarisa and Mark will run it again. BCO plans to support gift certificates again for volunteers. We need more parent volunteers for the event to help greet people. We have an African drum group performing that is local and won't cost anything.

Spring fundraiser: Mr. Schooler reported that we have some extra money in an account from some previous fundraising for the Bennett playground. He proposed that we use \$7000 of the \$8000 for the instrument project. The pot of money was originally for a sculpture garden, but

Molly Babcock was in agreement that the instruments were a good idea. We could ask the parents to try and raise \$7000 - \$8000 match and as a last resort possibly use of some of our money in the current budget if we don't raise enough. The instruments would be a \$15,000 investment from BCO. Deana gave more details on the fundraiser idea – a spelling bee. The parents and families pledge a certain amount per word that the kids spell. List of words that are instruments and music related that are grade appropriate would make sense. The kids get a list of 20 words. Do we want people to ask family for pledges? Can also do a flat rate donation. CSAP is over April 12 – better after that. We will ask Nicole Hallenbeck to help put the spelling lists together. Construction Management students can take on building the stands for the new instruments as a project which will save some money.

Principal's Report: Tree in the parking lot is being taken down. The parking lot is being redone and we could put an island in with new trees. Mr. Schooler met with a CSU Construction Management professor on a greenhouse project. One of the College students went to elementary school at Bennett. There has been a push for a garden, but the problem is that the growing season is in the summer. Retired teachers come and take care of the nature center at Bennett which has made it successful. In a greenhouse, we could start plants here and send them home for kids to plant at home during the summer. A compost pile would be a possibility as well. The construction management students are going to draw up some plans. Loren Funk from CM came over – two semester project – including planning and building.

School of Choice deadline is this Friday, Feb. 18th. 150 families are on the waiting list for kindergarten. With all of the neighborhood kids, we have 47 new kindergarteners. Siblings are next on the list and there are 11 on the list. With three kindergarten classes, we could only take 2 off the list. So should we consider taking a fourth kindergarten class? It would definitely impact specials. Mr. Schooler doesn't want the perception out there that we are closed. There was mixed feedback on whether we should add an extra class.

Kids from Bennett, Dunn, Polaris, Lab School and Harris will be going on the Germany trip to the JFK School in June. \$1800 per person.

Afterschool Classes: Lots of good response. For example, because of demand, two pottery classes are being offered instead of one.

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