

Bannockburn School Parent Organization (BSPO) Meeting Minutes- September 14, 2010

Attendance: Vicki Martin, Sara Danielewicz, Catherine Reznik, Marcy Erickson, Judy Kliebard, Elaine Lazarus, Sharon Krengel, Joann Desmond, Lindsey Schrand, Debbie Barnes, Pam Lewis, Rebecca Coleman, Nancy Nervick, Teresa Leahy, Cindy Korrub, Cherrie Thompson, Peg O'Rourke, Michelle Tackbary, Paul Johnson, Liz Weiss, Stacie Danielewicz

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Sharon, second by Elaine.

President's Report:

- Vicki welcomed everyone and reminded all attendees of the BSPO goals of bringing the Bannockburn School community together, linking parents to the school and supporting curriculum through gifts and cultural arts.
- Vicki asked that parents please check the school website under the BSPO tab for information. She expressed her hope that even parents that cannot attend meetings can feel informed and involved. She explained that tools like Survey Monkey, may be used to further reach out to parents and get their opinions and input on school happenings. For the first school movie night Survey Monkey may be used to gather votes on what movie should be shown.
- Vicki expressed thanks to Pam and Sara for taking new school families a webkinz bulldog, the BSPO newsletter and other welcome information before the first day of school.
- Everyone should have received a copy of the Buzz Book. Committee heads, BSPO board members and teachers received a second Buzz Book as a thank you, which was well received.

Corresponding Secretary:

- Pam passed around thank you notes from teachers and parents that were received in the late Spring, Summer and early this Fall.

Principal's Report:

- Debbie thanked Cindy for all her hard work in the past and her continued involvement. She offered many thanks too to BSPO for the luncheon; if you do not have a personal note from a teacher it is not because they do not appreciate it. She also thanked BSPO for welcoming the new families so nicely.
- Debbie explained that many school improvements were made over the summer. The teachers are very happy that the school is now cool thanks to the geothermal project, now we have to remember to bring sweatshirts. Elaine recommended Spirit Wear sweatshirts. A new floor was added to the cafeteria this summer too.
- Debbie expressed appreciation for all the parent support for the new carpool process. She understands that it is more restrictive, but removes much of the risk during the drop-off/pick-up process.
- Aaron Cooper, from Northwestern wrote, I Just Want My Kids to be Happy. Many teachers are reading the book and Mrs. Bentley is looking into having him come to speak to teachers and parents. He appears to be very expensive so another speaker may be looked for. Elaine recommended a group, but they do not specifically address content from the book. The Price of Privilege program done two years ago was well received.
- Debbie explained that future school improvement projects may include extending the current mosaic mural onto an adjoining wall, possibly this spring. All students would be involved. The last mural was 10k to complete. Shawn and Debbie met last spring with the artist, but they do not have a price estimate yet for the additional wall.
- The Organic Gardener met with Debbie and a few teachers to discuss creating raised beds in the courtyard and have her lead discussions on how to grow and be healthy for the students. She currently is very involved with the Lincoln Park Zoo garden. Debbie explained that this fall the

children will be involved in planting veggies in pots as part of their science curriculum.

- Debbie explained that both a Math consultant and a Literacy consultant will be visiting the school a few times this year and five teachers are going to work with our Global Learning Consultant. She said that the school will continue to develop Smart Board technology and teachers will continue to look at test scores and meet regularly to discuss children's progress.
- Omni Youth services will come to do a program for parents of 3rd, 4th, and 6th about getting along in classrooms. Mrs. Embry compliments this with her curriculum on bullying too. The school is looking at a continuing program that 3rd and 6th graders would participate in.
- We have added shared laptops for the 3rd and 4th graders and the 5th and 6th will have dedicated laptops.

Superintendent's Report:

- Joann Desmond expressed her thanks to Debbie for helping so much in making the installation of the geothermal system this summer. It was a large project to get completed.
- The school received a 10k solar grant. Further investigation will need to be done to understand exactly where the funds will be spent. The purpose of the solar panel is to collect data on how solar impacts our life and it will be integrated in the science curriculum.
- Unfortunately Illinois is one of the three worst states in the country regarding education funding for our public schools. Illinois is over \$13 billion in debt. Our local taxpayers support our school and we are very lucky for that, but we have to continue to look at Springfield and what is happening there. Legislation is currently be reviewed to replace part-time Superintendents with full-time ones, the School Board has written many letters to legislators regarding this, as have some school parents as Bannockburn currently has a part-time Superintendent and a full-time one would be very costly. Elaine asked if all schools must have a Superintendent and Joanne explained that it is law that all schools have a Superintendent.

Teacher Liaison:

- Vicki explained that our Teacher Liaison, Liz Ciko, was not able to attend but our psychology intern came today and she extended a welcome to her.

Treasurer:

The motion to approve budget for this year was made by Sara, second by Elaine.

- Sharon explained that the budget is tight this year. Sharon has tried to be as fiscally conservative as she could. She further explained that since we have a small margin this year, to please be aware of your committee's budgeted amounts and how much you spend. Teresa was afraid that the ice-cream amount was over-budget was she was actually \$63 under budget.
- We have collected over 23k for hot lunch but 73% goes to cost.

Committee Updates:

- Vicki wanted to thank a few people for events that have already happened this year. Thanks to Teresa for a great ice-cream social, the attendance seems to rise every year! Thanks to Liz and Eleni for a great BSPO luncheon in May and terrific welcome back lunch for the teachers in September. Thanks to Marcy for organizing the room parents. Thanks also to Elaine for organizing the Spirit Wear sales.
- Room Parents: Marcy is handing out checks to head-room parents and asks that if anyone has questions to please contact her.
- Ice Cream Social and Hospitality: No additional reports at this time.
- Spirit Wear: Spirit Wear Day is September 24. All students are asked to wear their Spirit Wear that day. Elaine ordered a lot of extra Spirit Wear, because in years past it has been hard to re-order. After school on Thursday, Elaine would like to sell Spirit Wear. Debbie and Elaine will discuss off-line how/when additional Spirit Wear sales might occur. Elaine plans to sell Spirit Wear at the 5k fun run.

- Hot Lunch: Vicki expressed thanks to the “lunch ladies” for doing a great job! Ordering and lunches started off great this year. Ann McCullough expressed that she wants the Organic option to be available on Tuesday and has agreed to try and find a vendor, if you would like to help out, please let her know.
- Bulldog Pumpkin 1 mile Walk/ 5k Run: The walk/run will be held on Saturday, October 2 at 8:30AM. Sara has been working with the Officer Ron at the Bannockburn Police Dept. and Chad Vincent to organize the event. She is looking for more volunteers to help out. Please let her know if you are available to help sell pumpkins from Deider Farms, man the walk/run route through local neighborhoods, pass-out muffins and cider after the event. A girl’s group will help lead stretching at 8:30AM and the walk/run will commence at 9AM. It is a free event. Participants will be asked to wear their Spirit Wear.
- Cultural Arts: Stacie Danielewicz announced that September 24 the Science Guy is going to come and do presentations throughout the day. Debbie said that for Halloween, the lower grades will be going to the Ray Radbury Story Festival in the morning. The school is considering having all of the students wear their costumes to school on Halloween. The parade will be at 2PM and the classroom parents should coordinate with the teachers to schedule their parties. A special cultural program may be organized for the upper grades. Debbie and Stacie will discuss this further.
- Fall Gift Sale: Paul Johnson has volunteered to help out. The sale will start September 27th and a kick-off will occur during that week at school. Vicki will help out with coordinating this. Great American is the vendor and many items, in addition to wrapping paper will be available.
- Book Fair: Cherie announced that the book fair will be Saturday, November 20th. Cheesecakes will now be available for sale from the Cheesecake Factory through Barnes and Noble. Vouchers that can be used online and at any store on the day of the sale will be passed out again this year. Gift-wrapping will be available again; volunteers to help out with this would be great. Caroline Shapiro suggested that we come up with a theme for the day. We would like to have art displayed but understand that there have been problems in the past. Cherie will discuss things further with the Barnes and Noble Store Manager. Teresa and Elaine volunteered that they know authors that might be willing to do a book signing the day of the event.
- Lower School Picnic: A date is still to be determined but the Thursday before the last day of school may be the date.
- Bricks: Judy explained that we sold nine bricks last spring that she organized to have installed in front of the school already. She is planning to organize a sale again this spring.
- See’s Candy Sale: Cindy will do the See’s Candy sale in January with delivery before Valentine’s Day.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vicki, second by Pam. The meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Catherine Reznik
Recording Secretary