

Brichta Elementary School PTO Minutes

Location: Brichta School Library

Date: Tuesday, August 17th, 2010

Time: 6:30 pm

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(twenty-one members present)

Introductions

Principals Report: Principal Cruz

Registration went well. We currently have 409 students. Many classes are at or over cap including kindergarten and fourth grade. Maximum class sizes are 26 students for kindergarten, 27 students for first through third, and 29 students for fourth and fifth grades. The district has until September 7th to resolve issues with class size. They may decide to add another teacher or just give teachers an assistant.

One thing the school is currently doing to help with class sizes is a blended curriculum. Angela Soto was hired as a Title One intervention Specialist. Rhonda Smith is the Student & Family Support Personnel. Rich Lippman has been hired as the Innovative Learning Specialist. He has been working hard to get the Laptops ready for the kids to use. Our resource teacher, Laura Kerry Henkel with Angela Soto and Rhonda Smith are assisting teachers by pulling students out for reading blocks and specialized attention in other subject areas. Less students in the classroom allows teachers to give the remaining students more attention.

Curriculum night will be Tuesday, August 31 at 5:30pm. It will start in the cafeteria with a brief talk from Principal Cruz. There will then be two classroom shifts from 5:45pm-6:15pm, and from 6:15pm-6:45pm.

The parent parking lot work order has been put in.

The alarm and fire drill system have been updated with a pulse system.

Teachers Report: Principal Cruz & Jodi

Jodi:

Things have settled in nicely. Kids seem very comfortable, and everything is running smoothly.

Principal Cruz:

To encourage our hard working teachers and support staff, I would like to implement the Quarterly Focus Award. This award will be given to teachers and staff who are nominated by parents, other teachers, etc. The form to nominate someone can be filled

out and will be reviewed at the teacher's meeting. It would be a great way to give teacher's a boost.

District representatives did a walk through of the school and complemented us on the calm environment in the school so quickly after classes started. They took note of how engrossed students already were in the curriculum.

Site Council Report: Principal Cruz and MaryAnn Estrada

With the passage of Proposition 100, the district will be giving back 3% to the schools. We will use this money to hire a part-time attendance clerk, part-time librarian and additional monitors. Christina Furtado has agreed to add two hours onto her work day to take on the attendance clerk position. There are two classes that are still To Be Announced. The first is the CCP where Stephanie Escalante is currently in a long term substitute position. We are working to complete the hiring process with the district, and are hopeful that she will be permanently hired. The second position is the combined first/second grade. Sarah A. is currently in that position and we are working to finalize her hiring.

The site council needs more parents. There are currently two teachers, with a third possible. There is an opening for two more parent slots with more possible. A community representative is also needed.

Brichta is moving forward with our efforts to start a Preschool. The application has been filled out, but we are waiting on Maggie Schaeffer's birth certificate which needs to go with the application. It should be available in the next couple of weeks. Our goal is to have the preschool on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:00am-12:00pm. We are also working on a birth to age 5 music program.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Carrasco

We ended the 2009-2010 school year with approximately \$10,000. As of the start of the 2010-2011 school year we have \$8,807.00. Some of that money is for Brichta Blast funds that have yet to be distributed. Jim requested that he be allowed to dispense some funds to three teachers from last year's budget. This included money from the blast and the per student allowance. Stephanie H. moved to allow Jim to dispense the necessary funds to the three teachers. Deirdre G. seconded the motion. Motion voted on and unanimously approved.

Jim presented the budget for the 2010-2011 school year.

Principal Cruz expressed concern that there was still \$53.00 in the library account that had to be removed immediately as it was illegal to have it there. She suggested we decide on a way to spend the money that would foster a love of reading like the PJ night. Jodi T. expressed concern that without a Librarian who was willing to take on the PJ

Night, it would be too much work. After several minutes of discussion, Kerry H. moved to use the \$53.00 on getting books through Scholastic. Those books will then be used at a later date as the PTO sees fit (perhaps as a donation or at an event to raise funds). Abraham Y. seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

A second motion was then made by Patricia S. to allow Principal Cruz, with a parent present, to order \$53.00 worth of books from Scholastic. The motion was seconded by Jane S. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Stephanie H. voted to adopt Jim C.'s budget. Jane S. seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved.

Student Council Report: MaryAnn Estrada

MaryAnn addressed the concerns of several members that the Student Council should not be getting 20% of all fundraisers. It is her goal that the student council should work to earn the 20%. We are all here to work together. The goal of the student council is to teach our kids to be responsible leaders. Allowing them to earn their money will help that process.

50th Anniversary: Danielle Filivaa

The tentative possible dates are November 5th or November 19th, both are Fridays. Some event ideas are creating a mini history museum; a mural everyone can sign; games & activities that can be fun for the attendees and possibly also used as fundraisers. We may also just have a donation jar so the activities can be kept free. We are not sure where the time capsule is, perhaps behind the Ramada.

Updating By Laws: Jennifer Schroeder

A number of By Laws issues were discussed:

- Who should make up the constituent group? If teachers are part of this we would not be able to vote unless at least one teacher is present.
- For Grant Requests, what are the rules that guide this process? Do we want to make teacher's come in person or by phone to request the grant? Should requests be through the principal's office? How is equitable access decided? Principal Cruz will check with the district to see what the district guidelines are on this.
- Limiting the funds the Executive Officers can approve, so they have some leeway if something comes up. The suggested amount was \$250.00. This would be for emergency situations.

Liz D. moved to have the Bylaws discussion tabled to the next meeting. Patricia S. seconded the motion. It was voted on and unanimously approved

New Business:

The Autumnal Equinox Celebration will be on Tuesday, September 21. Liz D. has organized it. There will be three telescopes, glow stick bracelets, popcorn and lemonade.

Kerry H. is a part of an educational advocacy group. She will be emailing some links that will allow us to check out the voting records for our candidates in the upcoming election.

Next meeting: September 14th, 2010, 6:30pm

Adjourned.