

Brichta Elementary School PTO Minutes

Location: Brichta School Library

Date: Tuesday, June 8th, 2010

Time: 6:30 pm

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Nine members present)

Introductions

Principals Report: Principal Cruz

Principal Cruz will be at Brichta next year.

The interim Superintendent should be announced at tonight's district meeting. A permanent superintendent should be in place by December

We will be getting a security upgrade at the school. Each teacher/staff member will have a keycard to enter the building.

Teachers Report: Principal Cruz

The Innovative Learning Specialist position has been approved. Currently, two people are applying. The district could step in and place a person in the position through a DIT (District Initiated Transfer). The district has done this with Lydia Rugar. She is moving to another school, and her position is gone.

Site Council Report: Principal Cruz and MaryAnn Estrada

Our school will not be combining with Maxwell. Plans for extending to a K-8 school over three years were not approved. However, we were encouraged to continue trying for that as our campus is a good setting for it. Politics play a big part over who gets approval and who does not. Principal Cruz and the community are committed to it.

The site council has discussed some changes to the 21st Century Grant for next year. The grant provides \$120,000 each year with a baseline requirement of after school attendance of 120 kids for 30 days. We are well over that requirement.

Many of the changes relate to the Summer School Program. Summer school has had some speed bumps, and has required some adjustments. Some of the changes for next year will be better publicity regarding offerings, better organization of the program and more clarity for the parents. One parent thought their child was enrolled, brought him in on the first day and was told he was not. On a positive note, those who were enrolled loved it. Jennifer Schroeder's son Zachary begged her to stay the whole day rather than leaving midday.

Voices for Education is a grass roots, parent-based, advocacy organization that works to improve the educational outcome of all students in Arizona. Kerry Hodgkinson has volunteered to be a correspondent with them. They would be a good resource for the Brichta community.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Carrasco

Our current balance is \$9,108.96. Lots of checks have been written, but the dust is clearing as many have been deposited. Of this total, \$1,120 is committed to the Brichta Blast funds. \$50 is committed to snacks for summer school.

Regarding the blast funds, Jim questioned how the decision to allow teachers all of next year was reached. Jennifer Schroeder informed him that it was a majority vote by the executive officers. Jim sent notes to each teacher with the total balance of what they still had to use from the blast funds and \$5 per student stipend. Jim feels all of next year is too long. There was also confusion over what would happen with the funds for teachers who had left their position before using them.

Liz Dagleish Morales moved to have the \$70 in funds be allotted to positions rather than individuals and give them until October 15th to use them. Robert Sandoval seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

Closer to the beginning of the school year, when all the position have been finalized, Deirdre Giampietro will email all the teachers with these updates.

Library fund checks were given to Jim for deposit so we still have a small bit of funds dedicated to them.

The Year book loss was only \$406 this year. We need to try other companies perhaps the TUSD print shop. Many feel the quality was better. Some parents complained because the year book was finalized in January. That is too early as half a year would then be missing. This process needs to be improved next year.

Budget: Jim Carrasco

Jim has a skeleton of what the budget would look like for next year based on last year's. Some changes are increasing the snack amount to \$400 from \$350. The health office uses snacks for kids who need a boost.

Some other things to think about are:

- Possibly having a potluck picnic as a free event;
- Funding the 2nd grade science project which has only been strongly encourage in the past, but will be part of the curriculum going forward;
- should we increase or decrease the yearbook funds, perhaps making the yearbook an after school class?

After all of the budget items we will have \$1,000 left over.

Student Council Report: MaryAnn Estrada

The student council's goals for next year are to earn the 20% through active, increased participation.

The Peter Piper fundraiser went well, and was used to get the popcorn equipment and supplies.

Maryann would like to become a new student council advisor. Two positions are automatically funded and this is one of them. It will need to be discussed with the teachers.

50th Anniversary: Danielle Filivaa

A number of ideas have been floated. It is important to have an event that is welcoming and fun. One possible theme would be combining culture night with the anniversary with a focus on look where we came from, look how far we've gone. Once a budget is decided, we will have a better idea of what can be done.

Updating By Laws: Jennifer Schroeder

Our by laws need to be updated. The last mission statement was from 2009. Jennifer emailed everyone the old by laws. Please look through them and let us know what you think. Jennifer printed up sample by laws from PTO Today. We need to make changes to how we budget and allocate the funds in the by laws. Our new by laws should provide more structure and organization.

Jane Simpson – the new by laws should be reviewed line by line.

New Business:

Meeting dates may be a problem. We will need to decide on a set day next month.

We need childcare for the meetings. Deirdre Giampietro will speak with her babysitter, Jessica Mendibles.

Next meeting: July 20, 2010, 6:30pm

Adjourned.