

Brichta Elementary PTO Minutes

Location: Brichta School Library

Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Time: 6:30 pm

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Members Present: Sabrina Cruz, , Jennifer Schroeder, Diana Kingfisher, Liz Dalglish, Jodi Thompson, Kerry Hodgkinson, Jane Simpson, Danielle Filiva'a, Leona Perez, Elma Alvarez, Stephanie Hamilton, Jim Carrasco

Teacher's Report: None available

Site Council Report: The first site council meeting will be August 31st. The PTO needs to nominate parent representation for these meetings.

Principal's Report

The First Choice proposal to Dr. Fagan for Brichta, which was not approved, was reviewed. Stephanie Hamilton asked if she could write a letter to support the technology that Brichta utilizes. It was also noted that a portion of the First Choice monies were going to support the ELL learners and the ELD teacher.

Vanessa Miller has left Brichta to pursue other interests. Jessa Woods is the new 4th grade teacher and Erin is the new Kindergarten teacher. Brichta is in the process of hiring an intervention specialist. We will have a full time counselor and librarian. A community representative will be a one year contracted position for 4 hours a day, which will be a liaison to parents and teachers. Two monitor positions will be maintained at Brichta. Delores Frutado had moved on.

The fourth grade teachers are looking at the needs of "each" student. There is the possibility of moving certain students into the 5th grade curriculum. This was successful last year. Two students are in accelerated programs.

The response to parent/PTO help at registration was much appreciated! It worked very well. Thank you to Diana Kingfisher, Liz Dalglish, Jane Simpson, Jennifer Schroeder and Stephanie Hamilton.

KVOA will be doing a story next Wed on Brichta with the focus on technology, integrating the school, neighborhood and community. Brichta will be trying to introduce a Kestrel bird. Tohono O'odham Nation has GPS software to monitor the birds and the students will be able to use it.

Brichta was one of four schools in the nation that was asked to pilot a DIEBLS test.

A parent/toddler playgroup will be started at Brichta. Cathy Dejonge will be the teacher. Principal Cruz is working on funds for this project so that parents will not have to pay.

Principal Cruz asked for parent input on Curriculum Night. Should it be one night or two? The consensus was one night.

The idea was proposed about the students making signs with their names on them to ease the congestion at parent pick-up. The idea of Kindergarten only being picked up in a different area was presented. This idea was tabled for future discussion.

The primary playground expansion has been approved. The kindergarten fence will be moved and connected to the NPR building.

A 21st century learning grant was approved for Brichta. This will support programs that will run M, T, Th and F after school. Ideas presented for this include a silk screening class, music, gardening and any other ideas would be welcomed.

Treasurers Report:

Jim Carrasco presented the report with the disclaimer that he had just received the past paperwork and was trying to sort it all out. It appears that there is \$7,426.85 in the bank with \$1,105.23 allocated which leaves a balance of approximately \$4,000.

The primary playground project presented by the Eagle Scout will require \$1200. Jim made a motion to add \$300 to the original \$900 to support this project. It was seconded and approved.

Young Rembrandts:

Principal Cruz asked the PTO if they would support scholarships for the Young Rembrandts program that will run on Wednesdays. Jodi made a motion that the PTO put \$100 towards scholarships for the Young Rembrandts. It was seconded and approved.

Stargazers Night:

It will be held on September 22nd. It is the day when the day and the night are of equal lengths. 6:30 to 8:00pm. Liz wanted to make sure the PTO donated a stipend to the Tucson Astronomy Association group. Kerry made a motion to set aside \$150 for this event. It was seconded and approved.

Fundraising:

Discussions centered around different subjects including the Original Artworks fundraiser, a movie night, car wash, rummage yard sale, advertisement space in the newsletter to parents. The idea was presented to have a survey available on Curriculum Night to obtain parents opinions on fundraising. People were encouraged to “think outside the box” and bring the ideas to the next meeting.

Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels:

Jennifer Schroeder offered to take on the box tops program and Jodi Thompson offered to take on the Campbell Soup Labels.

School Monitors:

Brichta only has two consistent school monitors, which leaves us short. Principal Cruz asked for a “Parents on Patrol” program for assistance at lunchtime. Leona volunteered to help.

Next Meeting:

Sept 15th at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned