BESF Meeting Minutes

1/4/2015

7:00-10:02pm @Huntington Subdivision Clubhouse (Ann Mancuso)

Present at the meeting: Greg Brass, Leslie Chiabotti, Kimberley Evans, Nancy Lewis, Ann Mancuso, Tim Martin, Dave McClintock, Beth Rich, Staci Richards, Jill Stewart, Matt Taylor,

Guest: Amy Sery

1. The meeting was called to order and it was established that a quorum was present. The minutes from 11/2/2014 failed to be presented to the board, so were not reviewed in time to be approved. Therefore, their approval was postponed.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**: Current Balance is $42,119. A 990 has been filed and tax paperwork for Amy Sery is being prepared.
3. Welcome to our **Guest, Amy Sery**. She was able to provide us with her update in person.
* Flip charts (as a teaching tool) have been created
* Has worked with teachers using active voters and promethean boards
* Ipads – this seems to be the direction of technology. “Class Flow” (a program) can connect to the promethean boards and lesson plans and provides immediate feedback to teachers!
* 30 iPad are on the cart – 6 colors (5 each), so that small group check outs are available.
* Meeting with two grade levels every 2 weeks
* Typically at BES on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-3
* ACTION – Amy will submit a “Wish List” to the Foundation for equipment and accessory needs
1. **Task Leader Reports**:
* Museum School Tour – Awesome Model of a hands-on school, drawbacks - a big burden on the teachers in preparation time required and requires a large financial pool. There is a FREE CONFERENCE in Atlanta this summer. The curriculum incorporates many field trips, the curriculum is interconnected (holistic and thematic). At the end of the semester they hold a ‘Museum Night’ where students are able to showcase what they have learned.
* PTA/Administration/Council – there appears to be a ‘crisis’ at Briarlake. The 5th grade has recently lost several students/families due to concerns regarding the curriculum, specifically math, as well as a brewing conflict between families,teacher and administration. This is a very unfortunate situation for the Briarlake families and one that is causing the Foundation a great deal of concern.
* Auction items – Ann is handling this and will send out an email in the next few days for feedback. Several items are in hand and she will be using the auction website ’BiddingForGood’.
* Community – No Report from Matt
* Events/Fundraising – Brick Campaign: Emily Mason has agreed to help with the project. Ann is working on the price points. She will send out an email for the Board to review. There will be tiered pricing for both Briarlake Families as well as Corporations. The actual cost will be @ $18/brick. The Briarlake Festival will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in the fall of 2015!
* Website - Sally Elliott has said that the Foundation website is outdated. Staci says that the website is utilizing a form that is not user-friendly. She would like to change the format, but needs information to gain access. PTA/Foundation/Council need to coordinate their efforts in order to streamline parental access. The foundation site needs to simply direct people to the Facebook page for now. FRIDAY FLYER INFO: Facebook Page, ‘Save the Date’ for the Briarlake Bash and Q & A with Amy Sery.
* Grants – Beth needs to know the direction of the Foundation in order to steer/direct her grant writing. Many grants state that any monies awarded cannot be used for salaries or supplementing salaries.
1. **New Business**:
* Discretionary Funds requested. To be named in the budget as “President’s Fund”. A motion was made for this Fund to be approved at $250, and seconded, – with a vote of 8 -‘YES’, 1- ‘NAY’ and 1- Abstention, the motion carried. (Nancy Lewis had left early and did not vote)
* **TO DO** for the Board: Research/Bring to the table, Charter School possibilities (Green School, Museum School, International Baccalaureate, Technology, STEM, STEAM…..others?) Please submit your thoughts/research **by FEBRUARY 1** in order to give board members time to digest the various suggestions prior to the next board meeting. **THANK YOU!**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08pm

**The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 7pm** – LOCATION: Huntington Subdivision Clubhouse, 3825 LaVista Road (Thank you, Ann Mancuso) Each Board Member is asked to bring a food/beverage item to share – thank you!