

# Boosters Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Called to order at 6:01 pm

**Attended by** Arianna, Tasha, Andrea, Lizzy, Kandice, Elly, Amy, Leonna, Harmony, Jaima, and Daniela

## Admin

- Arianna motioned to approve previous meeting minutes, Tasha seconded, all in favor
- Arianna motioned to add Andrea Nielsen as ambassador, Leonna seconded, all in favor

## Treasurer's Update

- Tasha picked up a debit card for the Boosters account today, can use to set up autopay for website, order things on Amazon, etc.
- \$5,505.09 current bank balance, but we have an outstanding \$2000 check to Pasta King
- Stipend checks will be sent out soon, \$150 per teacher, hoping to give another \$50 each in January depending on fundraising
- We have money coming in soon from pasta feed event, spirit wear sales

## Principal's Update

- Hispanic Heritage month starts Friday
  - Will be decorating again, last year had flags in front of office, etc.
  - Latinx dance club started Wednesday, doing folklorico, Cubano, and salsa, will dance at an assembly
  - Another volunteer may be leading more dance classes
- Mr. Gustavo has started Golden Goose Academy
  - Focused specifically on second language learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged families, working on teaching life skills, paid for with ELAC funds
  - Program was piloted at Madrone over the summer
- Camp Binkley, September 22
  - Campus beautification and community building, run by Mrs. Prosser and Mrs. Livingston
  - Themed around The Dot book
  - Each grade level has a dot color, decorating paper plates for the MPR
  - Community project is making a quilt for a school in Maui that Mrs. Prosser connected with
  - Working with Seedlings to help replant barrels by classrooms, plant seed bombs in teacher parking lot
    - Jaima will donate 3 wine barrels for classrooms that don't have them
  - Games, buddy classes, etc.
  - Popsicles, "campfire" sing along at the end of the day
- Girls Basketball
  - Beginning Tuesday/Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Mr. Joe is retiring from coaching, Harmony has ordered a sign to honor him
  - Ms. Renzi and Mr. Gustavo are co-coaching this year
- Special Olympics
  - RVP participates, Deb (adaptive PE teacher) runs the program here

- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grades students help out their RVP buddies, will go along to Special Olympics at Montgomery
- Superintendent visited
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade doing Early Humans education, group comes onto campus and teaches about food, housing, etc. in history
- Field trips are starting
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade going to Pepperwood
  - TK going to Muelrath Pumpkin Patch
- Conflict Managers
  - Mr. Gustavo picked 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders, trained them to help manage conflicts between students, they are out at recess, have specific shirts
- Safe Routes to School
  - Ms. Renzi working with kids, stop sign crew
  - Walk and Roll starts October 4th
  - Mrs. Beccio will do Walking School Bus again
- Educlimber
  - Teachers have been trained on behavior side, how to intervene with students to reteach them and redirect behaviors
  - Document those kinds of interactions in Educlimber
  - Reflection Room is open again, kids got to visit with Ms. Lily during recess rotations
  - PBIs starting too
- Student Council is being replaced by different grade levels taking each part of what student council would usually do
  - Spirit Weeks
  - Campus Beautification
    - Paint bathrooms with kids, make them nicer and they will take better care of them
- New volleyball and basketball uniforms being covered by a donation, don't have to ask Boosters to cover
- Basketball hoop was damaged beyond repair
  - District is covering a new one for the TK/K yard
  - In ground basketball hoops are expensive, but we could get a freestanding hoop for cheaper
  - Different grade levels want different things
    - TK/K want a play stage, \$500
    - 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade new basketball hoop

### **General Fund Breakdown / End of Year Payouts**

- Daniela is basically Boosters Financial Historian
- General idea is to spend the money we raise each year on the students from that year
- This means a large check (majority of the funds we have left at the end of the year) goes to the principal at the end of the year
  - Because of how the school budget works, Binkley carries a negative balance and pays it off at the end of each month or year
  - Principal gets a budget each month comparing all the schools in the district
  - Binkley has four funds:
    - Library, can only be spent on library items, new books, etc.
      - District also restocks libraries at the beginning of the year with new books, award winners, etc.
      - Fund allows us to buy more books for specific areas, like Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, etc.

- Site
  - About \$12k a year
  - Starts around \$15-16k a year but a big chunk goes to stocking work room, buying supplies, etc.
  - Some goes to classrooms for specialty items
- Donations
  - This is where Boosters money goes along with other donations
  - Field Trip payments also go here
- Intervention Funds
  - Not equitable by site, broken up by Title I status (socioeconomically disadvantaged students), Binkley gets a large chunk of the money from the district
  - About \$15k a year
  - Can be used by teachers for things like sensory items, scholarships for students on field trips who need it, etc.
- For funding things like Field Trips, comes from Donations first, then Intervention Funds if applicable, then Site budget to cover what is outstanding
  - About 80% of donations go to Field Trips
  - When parents are asked to pay for field trips, the recommended amount does cover their student, but not all families can pay
  - Older grades tend to have more expensive field trips
  - ALL students are paid for on field trips, need to make sure parents understand that if they can't pay that doesn't mean they should keep their kids home
- Our "donations" to Binkley are accounted for at the end of each school year and reported by the Principal
- Tasha will make a pie chart to share for this year based on last year's spending
- We keep as little money as possible in our account at the end of the year, enough to write teacher stipend checks and to run the welcome back party before we have a fundraiser, in order to put as much of the money raised as possible toward the students who were there when it was raised
- See statement from Daniela at end for more details

## SPAC

- \$65 million school improvement bond will be on March 2024 ballot
  - Would be matched \$12 million by the state
  - Plan is to redo Binkley office (better windows so they can see people out front, better sound proofing), replace portables with 3 classrooms for RVP (with their own bathrooms, living skills tools like kitchens), upgrade TK classrooms to have bathrooms in all, new wing for Extended Care
  - Has to be approved by the board at the next meeting
- RVEF has raised \$40k for STEM so far, need \$150k for a teacher for one year, still working on fundraising
  - We are willing to donate a percentage, RVEF will come back to us in March/April to ask for specific amounts
  - STEM classes are for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> grades, but other grades can use the space as well with their own teachers
- Back to School Multicultural Night
  - Some schools did traditional version without kids
  - Feedback said it was hard to get to two classrooms in short amount of time if you had two students
  - Teachers and staff liked the evening, but some of them had to miss the performances because they were still talking to parents in their classrooms

- Maybe next year spread out tables so there isn't a big bottleneck, put food in front of classrooms, or longer time in classrooms with teachers (45 minute period instead of 30 minutes)
- Performances first so teachers can see them too, then classrooms and food, would allow people to leave when they were finished
- What should SPAC work on as a group?
  - Arianna suggested raising teacher stipends (we give \$150, some schools give \$200, or \$250, and even beyond just classroom teachers)
    - We fund RVP classes on our campus, but some classes aren't on campuses, so all schools chip in to sponsor them as well
  - Some schools give new teachers (or teachers switching grade levels) more money to set up their classrooms
  - Need to be on the same page within different schools in district, address disparity
- Getting information out to parents
  - We talked about doing a paper newsletter to get info into the hands of parents

### **Redwood Empire Food Bank Event**

- Amy is also on the Board of Directors for the food bank, always looking for ways to work donations into events, get kids in to help, etc.
- Mrs. Graefen wanted to do volunteer night at the food bank, set it up to do quarterly Thursday evenings, get the dates out as early as possible

### **Booster Newsletter**

- We should send out a monthly newsletter, on paper, try to get event calendar into parents' hands
- Arianna will write it, Kandice will print on half sheets, teachers will hand out to students
- Boosters will pay for paper
  - Tasha will pick up colored paper, Orange for October

### **Movie Night**

- October 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm
- Lizzy will pick three movies, coordinate with teachers to let students vote between those
- Snack shack
  - Jaima will do Costco run to sell snacks
  - Popcorn, gummies, drinks
- Kona Ice may be available
- REFB donation bins outside, everyone who brings a canned donation gets a raffle ticket
  - Ask Lynnette to coordinate room parents to have each classroom donate an item for the raffle basket
- Money raised will go toward basketball hoops and TK/K play stage

### **Trunk or Treat**

- October 27, 5:30-7pm
- Taco stand
- Ask to see if any parents want to volunteer to do a haunted house, we have materials in the shed

### **Spirit Wear**

- We met quota for adult and child sizes
- 133 items, 129 orders, more kids than adult sizes sold
- People have requested long sleeve shirts, beanies, water bottles, sunglasses, fanny packs

- Add 2 of each kid sizes, one each gold and blue, to have in stock for office
- Orders should come in around the end of September

### **Pasta Feed / Welcome Back Party**

- September 15, 5:30-7pm
- Craft table will be noodle necklaces, etc.
  - Materials donated by Jana Adams
- Table outside MPR for will call tickets, ticket sales, 50/50 raffle, selling old spirit wear
- Tables inside MPR for serving pasta, tables on stage for other raffles
- Craft table outside by lunch tables, people can eat at lunch tables
- Kona ice in teacher parking lot to be near lunch tables

### **Other Upcoming Events**

- Dine & Donates:
  - Nick the Greek, September 26, 11am-10pm
  - Tomatina – Wednesday, October 4
  - Nick the Greek, November 14, 11am-10pm
  - Chipotle, December 3
- Next meeting: October 12

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Statement from Daniela Ribbecke, regarding Boosters finances and disbursement of funds:

“While I am no longer on the Board, I was involved as Treasurer, and as support to new Treasurers for 7 years. In my first two years with the Boosters I created our QuickBooks database and went through all of the old financial paperwork going back a decade. I have seen and reviewed Boosters financial statements and historical data for quite a long time and as such I have a deep well of knowledge on this subject.

As per our Board Bylaws our organization’s purpose is:

“This organization is established as a service organization to provide services to the Binkley Elementary school community, to conduct activities to foster community spirit, involvement and awareness, and to raise funds solely for the purpose of supporting school goals and programs.”

To further that purpose Boosters raises funds all year. Boosters uses those funds to create events for the Binkley community throughout the school year and to financially support the Binkley Community as needed. The Boosters have traditionally given Binkley several checks a year to help cover expenses not in the district’s budget, like field trips, assemblies, classroom subscriptions and incentives, and playground equipment. These expenses change from year to year but are discussed at meetings. At the end of the school year Boosters retains a small amount of money to start the next school year as there are beginning of year expenses that will need to be paid before any fundraising can occur. Boosters has an imperative to give the most money possible to Binkley from funds raised during the school year and retains only enough for a modest operating budget. The funds raised during that school year are expected to be used to benefit the children during that school year if possible. Which is why Boosters gives the remaining funds to Binkley as Binkley has already incurred many expenses not covered by the district, during the school year. These include the same list as above and more. These expenses are then paid for by Boosters, as the school is in a deficit for the year.

The Principal gives Boosters a breakdown of how that money is then used. Due to the complexities of school budgets and timelines for finalization of that budget, we may wait a few months to receive a breakdown from the Principal of the funds. When I became Treasurer 7 years ago we did begin regularly publishing that data and including it in our end of year budget breakdown which you can find in our Google Docs database. Boosters has also published prior years budgets with full breakdowns on their website and in newsletters. However this breakdown has not consistently been annotated or published every year and it is not a requirement of the Boosters Bylaws. If you would like to see historical breakdowns of expenses though, they are in some previous budgets. While it is preferred that we note these expenses, it can be difficult to coordinate based on many circumstances and it's always important to remember that all Boosters Board members are volunteers doing their best.

Boosters has always supported Binkley with fundraising to create community events and using the remaining funds to allow the school to have beneficial programs for all the children like coverage of costs for field trips, assemblies and specialized playground or classroom equipment.”