

Binkley Town Hall Meeting: September 4, 2018

Call to Order 6:05 pm

Introductions

Vision Statement: Denise Rose read the revised vision statement to our visiting families and explained how this ties in to the activities we participate in and our presence on campus. Denise called for questions from everyone present (none taken).

Principal's Statement: Mrs. Nao just had a healthy son, she will be out through Christmas. The garden's sprinkler system install has been started but is not yet finished – this is really exciting! Once this project is finished, the students and volunteers will no longer need to do that manually. Walk and Roll has been ongoing for the last 4 years and we just got our “report card.” Christine Warren has been leading this charge. There are about 40 schools in the county that participate in this program. The “A” score “Earth Green” score, we got “B” score, “Forest Green” score. At the end of the year we jumped from 16% to 31%. We have incentivized this program with lots of fun prizes and programs to encourage participation, which also help boost our score, so these are things to look at this year. “Green Sneaker” challenge would be another way of boosting our score but would require Booster/volunteer help and participation. Safe School Ambassador training program: started last year. Hand-pick 4/5/6th graders who go to 2-day training and learn different ways to handle mean social situations that are more realistic and more nuanced. Gives them real-life suggestions and tips for how to diffuse and resolve bullying or confrontational scenarios. Then they can connect with safe adults and share those situations so that the adults have better insight into situations/relationships that they might not be aware of. Last year they had the training but it was interrupted by the fires, so we hope that this year it will be more impactful with no interruptions. Next week on Tuesday, the school board meets and they will be doing final interviews of the candidates to be the new Principal. From there, it should be about a week before the new Principal is announced.

Welcome Back Party: Gigi talked about this year's party. Will start at about 6 and go until after sun down. Our field is open so we will have the movie on the field. Jumpy house, free popcorn, face painting, food trucks, and a bake sale! If any parents want to bake goodies for the bake sale, they will need to be individually wrapped so they can be sold. We also would love 8 volunteers for the jumpy house.

Halloween Party: We will need lots of volunteers for the Haunted House this year – if you are interested, please let us know! We are looking for all sorts of volunteers – people who would like to dress up and participate in the actual haunted house, people who want to work the door, people who want to do a trunk or treat, or even people who want to donate candy or decorations for the haunted house. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets and information on how to donate these items as it gets closer to the holiday.

Read-A-Thon: Alison spoke about the upcoming Read-A-Thon – we will be kicking off the event with an assembly to get students excited about the event, and the event itself will run from 9/17 to 9/28. We are looking forward to another fun and successful event this year and talked about our commitment not just to raising money for the school but also honoring the time our Bobcats spend reading. We will be looking for fun ways to honor the students putting in those minutes, and will be posting our progress on the fundraising board in front as we did last year. We have a fundraising goal of \$12,000 this year and we know we can get there!

Other Fundraisers: First will be before Christmas – packets will go home before Thanksgiving – and the other will be before Easter. This is a great event for Boosters because it is easy for us to facilitate and it generates great sales for our school! There are also lots of great passive ways of generating revenue for the school: eScrip, Amazon Smile, Box Top, Oliver’s Card.

How Do We Spend Our Money?: Assemblies, online subscriptions (Mystery Science, Go Noodle Plus), Field Trips, Playground Equipment, Fine Arts Day, Camp Binkley, Field Day, School App, as well as other miscellaneous expenses like technology, signage, grounds, etc.

Open Forum: What would everyone like the Boosters to achieve? What are your priorities?

- Social and Emotional Development: anti-bullying campaign or inclusivity project (especially for upper-graders) to help kids and give them tools/skills to cope with social stressors (Kind Ties - #youbeyou)

- Diversity training

- Technological Safety: helping children and parents to be made more aware of the dangers of both online bullying and other online dangers

- Creating a closer relationship with our district schools: maybe we could reach out to Sequoia PTA about sharing certain events, or creating community events

- Volunteer Coordinator: We need a parent who is interested in this position! If you think you would enjoy this or know someone who would, please let us know!

Dave Travers: Dave is running for School Board and would like to have more representation, inclusivity, and connection with people in our school district of people who actually have children in our school district. He passed out information about himself and his campaign and invited all of us to contact him and organize with him if we want to be involved. He said if he could help the Board accomplish one thing during his one-year term, he would like them to make the meetings more accessible by 21st-century standards – streamed on FB, posted on YouTube, accessible to more than 20 people at a time.

New Business: Daniela presented the new budget to all present and explained the breakdown of each event and our projected cost, income, and profit (if any). She spent some time explaining each line item, taking time to talk about the \$20k that goes to Mrs. Lister (Binkley) each year and what that amount entails. We also explained why have two years’ worth of Welcome Back parties in the budget (because of the timing of the party and the Town Hall meeting in which the budget has to be approved, going forward, we are going to get the budget for the next year’s party approved the previous year to avoid any issues). Our overall fundraising goal for this year is \$58k which is \$4k more than last year, but a very attainable number.

Rollover Funds: Boosters previously (2017) rolled \$5k from an old money market account into our general account because it wasn’t making any interest and as a board, we felt it didn’t make sense to keep the two separate accounts. At the time that we voted, we were not aware that the funds were previously set aside as an extra fund for 6th grade camp so that any students who couldn’t afford to attend could access funds to help them attend. Denise made an official motion to change the name of the account to “6th grade camp fund” and start officially using those funds for 6th graders who need financial assistance attending 6th grade camp. Daniela Ribbecke seconded, all voted in favor. Motion was passed. Denise made a motion to pass the 2018-19 budget. Alison Carrington-Tardif seconded, all voted in favor. Motion passed. Sarah Herrera, who has helped us with our books in the past (she is a non-

profit CPA) let us know that now that we have raised more than \$50k yearly, we are required to file a different (more involved) tax form. She will give us a quote for this service.

Multicultural Night: We would really love for this to be an amazing event this year, so please reach out to us and let us know if you are interested in hosting a booth this year.

Garden Club: Sarah Herrera runs the Garden Club with Amy and Candace (volunteers). This is a very small non-profit that Sarah runs here and at Whited and Spring Creek. The irrigation is in the process of being installed but there was a leak, so it is still in process. Sarah's long-term goal is to create an outdoor classroom. The garden shed is going to be moved to where the bamboo pile is currently and they are working on more interactive projects. Most items for the garden are donated and Camp Binkley is a big event for this club! Lots of volunteers are needed to help make this a success so if anyone is interested please let Sarah know if you are interested.

Adjourn 7:38 pm