

6:00 Meeting called to order by Tim Hill, seconded by Comica Shaw

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

PRINCIPAL SEARCH (Elizabeth Austin, KCPS Asst. Superintendent

Ms. Austin led a discussion about priorities desired by the Border Star community. The district has started the search process, and already met with BSM staff to assess what attributes are important to them in a leader/principal. Meeting attendees divided into 5 small groups to go through the same process. After discussion, each group was asked to report to the whole their top attributes/characteristics/skills.

PRIORITIES (from tonight's discussion)

- Some of the top: strong communication skills (at all levels: students, teachers, families, district). Transparency, good listening.
- Good advocate for the school (building, services, etc.)
- Support for Montessori process and ideals (trained in Montessori or willing to be trained),
- Ability to resolve issues/problems/conflicts
- Forward-thinking (what can we do to improve/take the school to new level), creative ideas
- Supportive of teachers/listening to their needs, creating good environment
- Inclusive/appreciative of the diversity here
- Experience in district with similar challenges
- Clear definition of success (test scores or otherwise)
- Directly involved/good rapport with students
- Inspiring/dynamic/fun: ability to attract strong teachers, engaged in community

PROCESS (per Elizabeth Austin):

- Search committee applications have been requested, some turned in.
- Survey emailed to Faculty/staff and posted on website
- Teacher/Principal meeting to ask input about priorities
- Community/parent meeting (tonight)
- Soon: search committee applications screened, committee selected
- Search committee will review applications and resumes, hold interviews
- Hope to select/approve in March

SCULPTURE ON CORNER OF 63RD/BROOKSIDE (Paul Dorrell, Owner, Leopold Gallery)

Paul Dorrell is spearheading replacing the sculpture that was demolished by a car a couple years ago. He reported to attendees:

- Artist is Paul Storms, same as last sculpture.
- 5th & 6th graders will assist and learn through the project; at KC Clay Guild in Waldo, where work and firing will be done on a weekend. One or two Saturdays 10-20 kids

- Shoot for June install depending on fundraising (funds will be raised by Paul from the community)
- Theme: different shapes/diversity, building blocks, playful, colorful
- Opportunity for Border Star to promote, social media etc.

Tim Hill moved to approve last (*date*?) minutes. Second by Bonnie Leigh.

Approved by voice vote

PRINCIPAL REPORT (Ms. White)

- Scarlett Nevins will represent BSM this Saturday at regional spelling bee
- Ms. Wolff, White, Lands-Hanke, Montessori going to professional development workshops. Ms. White and teachers are grateful for PTA support.
- School district has allocated money for tutoring. Ms. White used test scores to assess individual student needs. Some have started receiving tutoring already (getting pulled out of class).
- Each principal has been asked to present a “State of the School” address: goals, data, test scores and improvement strategies, celebrations. Ms. White is preparing. Is happy to report improving test scores, plans to improve more.
- Parent Ed surveys: would like to get this feedback before the next parent ed night. Surveys are still being accepted.
- Teacher recruitment: fliers are being sent to universities (education departments), inviting students to come to BSM to see Montessori environment/curriculum in action (2/28). Also, a few long-time teachers will be retiring at the end of the year; there are several applications in/expected, including some district teachers and a parent (teacher) who want to go through Montessori training.
- Black History Wax Museum 2/27
- 6th Graders are in NY for MMUN. They were “sent off” by students and
- Got MOU approved for dental screening (tentatively 3/15)
- Still thinking about a language program, either associated with school programming or LINC. Going to check w/district, and LINC, PTA
- Question about early dismissal on Wednesdays to make time for professional development. Ms. White said that as far as she knows, the district is not moving forward with plans for this next year. Principals do want more prof. development time for teachers, but other options are being discussed. like adding on at the end of the year or a few ½ days off throughout the year.

LINC REPORT (Ms. Taylor)

- Language in some way (during school or as LINC)
- St. Patricks Parade, one LINC staff is former marching Cobra, LINC will have a marching group taught by her
- Question: LINC contract for next year. Ms. Taylor, as far as she knows

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Leslie Tenjack)

- POOL PARTY AT NKC Community Center, March 9 2-5, \$5 (adults swim for free)
- Family Dance maybe in March? If anyone has interest/ideas about helping, finding DJ talk to Leslie

SPIRIT WEAR:

The order link was broken, but is fixed again. (Find on Border Star PTA website)

ROOM PARENTS (Comica Shaw):

- Valentines parties happened today in some classes. Next party (for some classes) Easter/Spring,
- Teacher Appreciation in May.
- Room Parent Chair needed for next year;
- Have had each classroom do a room theme basket to auction. Room parent will gather

YEARBOOK: Tim reported that cost is still \$15 through March (on line order). Still can send photos, use Balfour app/code

FUNDRAISING (report sent by Kris Neuhauser):

- TRIVIA NIGHT, TIX GO ON SALE NEXT MONTH, friends/family welcome. Looking for auction donations. Weekend packages to Branson, St Louis, Omaha. Overhead Door donating garage door. Also looking for businesses to sponsors, starts at \$100
- Parking cars as a fundraiser from 11:30-1:45 for St. Patrick's parade. Looking for volunteers. (Will still be able to participate in parade

PARADE

- Shirt for parade?
- Julie Steenson on parade duty this year
- Shaved Ice Kona Ice is going to park/serve during parade, portion of sales donated to BSM

PRAIRIE clean-up in March

Chris Nelson

Muffins w/Mom

Donuts w/Dad

8:30-9

art?

OLD BUSINESS

- A proposal for a new sound system in the auditorium was sent to the district, requesting funds. The district is planning some updates for multiple schools, but with a much lower budget, (\$5K/school). PTA can contribute above that.
- Tetherball: district is going to install, hire out
- Need people to lead committees: Room Parent Chair, New Parent/families, Spirit Wear, Field Day/Fun Day
- Parent Ed Night went well: iReady rep was there
- \$200 Target gift card was sent to family of BSM girl whose father was killed
- BKS Farmers Market: still need MOU – market starts in April. Concerns were raised about the trash/litter left behind, and vendors picking from the school garden.

ADJOURN 7:30

Tim Hill moved to adjourn, seconded and approved by voice vote.