

Parent Guild Meeting

450 W. East Ave, Chico Ca 95926

When: April 26th, 2011 @ 6:00pm

Where: The Great Room

Council Attendees:

✓ Chris Grettum – Chair	✓ Sarah Parada– 1st Jen Robertson	✓ Elizabeth Jennings- 5 th Carol Fegte
✓ Portia Ceruti – Co Chair	☐ Kelly Munson – 1st Michelle Miller	✓ Nena Anguiano–6th Shannon O’Laughlin
✓ Maggie Buckley - Secretary	☐ TBA – 2nd Brianna Lee	✓ Scott Lape - 7th Miguel Russo
✓ Holly Pladson – Treasurer	✓ Heather Jensen – 2nd Kylee Knowles	✓ Sarah Pape – 8th Ally Welch
✓ Amy Kao –Lavender K/ Melissa	☐ Elizabeth Cadd Fidale – 3rd Jennifer Glennen	
✓ Genesis Oswalt –Tiger Lily K/ Sarah	☐ Jessica Hunt – 3rd Rebecca Ginney	
☐ Jolene Moore –Maple Rose K/ Cheryl	✓ Caryl Brown- 4th Barbara Ott	
✓ Jenny Johnston –Columbine K/ Susan	✓ Martha McDermott – 4th Elska King	

✓ = present x = absent

1. Opening	1.1 Meeting called to order at: <u>7:30 pm</u> 1.2 Roll Call/Quorum (11): 15 (YES) 1.3 Agenda Modifications Portia confirms that 9.1 (upper grade funding request) has been removed from the agenda.										
2. School Verse	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>This is our school</td> <td>Love of one another</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May peace dwell here</td> <td>And love of life itself</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May the rooms be full of contentment</td> <td>Let us remember</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May love abide here</td> <td>That as many hands build a house</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Love of our school</td> <td>So, many hearts build a school</td> </tr> </table>	This is our school	Love of one another	May peace dwell here	And love of life itself	May the rooms be full of contentment	Let us remember	May love abide here	That as many hands build a house	Love of our school	So, many hearts build a school
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3. Charter Council Candidate Forum	3.1 Candidate Introductions and Statements 3.2 Q & A Candidates for Charter Council Elections were introduced and made their statements. Candidates running for the 3 open community seats were as follows; Claire Hutkins-Seda, Veronica Coats, Jeff Plotnick, Susan Luallen and Kristin Smith. Candidates for the 2 open Parent representative seats were Marc Kessler and Tighe O’Neill.										
4. Public Comments	4.1 Public Comments and Announcements - Sarah Pape followed up on last meetings report on upper grade issues. Dan and Michael were wonderful in their efforts to meet with families and teachers to discuss the issues and come up with solutions for the present and future. Some of the 8 th graders were apprehensive about entering high school not knowing what to expect. So in an effort to help in a transition Dan was able to arrange a meeting with Inspire’s Principle for our 8 th graders to tour the school& classrooms while in session and meet some student council leaders. This will happen on Thursday of this week. It was also decided to have more classroom time to address high school preparedness by freeing up time usually set aside for specialty services.										
5. Consent Agenda	5.1 Approval of Parent Guild meeting minutes for March 15, 2011- Heather moves to approve minutes. Portia seconds, all in favor-15 ayes.										

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Fundraising –Carrie Gausemel-

- 2 things that may need discussion at the meeting --
 1. 6th Grade- I do not have a fundraising request for the Jamba Juice fundraiser. Please fill out and turn into Admin ASAP. Thanks!
 2. Holly, Treasurer, Have you cashed the check from Cal Skate? Yes. They have a copy of a cashed check. Perhaps it is in this month's Treasurer's report. I did not see it in last month's report. Let Carrie know if you have any questions. Thanks!
- The Fundraising Committee met April 4th. Here are some of the highlights from our meeting.
- Class Fundraisers- Look around campus for all the wonderful class fundraisers. Thanks to everyone for following the protocol! We are all on the right track!

School Wide Fundraisers:

- RUMMAGE SALE SAT APRIL 30th 8am-2pm, SUN MAY 1st 8am-12pm:
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! RUMMAGE ITEMS NEEDED! TABLES NEEDED! Cash boxes will be provided by Holly. Dan will open doors for Jolene the morning of the sale. Shifts of 2-3 hours. Sign ups in front office. Need- Calculators, Tables (marked)
No childcare will be provided during Rummage sale or at setup
- Cal Skate- May 5th 1:45-3:45pm.
- Take Over T.Bar June 16th Thurs. 5-8pm. Need two people to sit out front to hand out promo cards (for 20% of sales for that night to go to Blue Oak) as well as outreach for Blue Oak.
- S&S Scrips sales available at Thursday Marketplace
- Spaghetti Dinner planning for next year will begin soon!
- Community Businesses that donate to Blue Oak when you use their services:
Recology
Haircut/Salon (? I don't know the name, need salon to fill out Fundraising Form) Violin Tree (violin lessons) Tech Connect (computer repair)
- May Faire Vendors needed. Vendor agreements need to be signed.

Questions? Want to Volunteer?

Contact Carrie Gausemel cgausemel@gmail.com or 520-0661

6.2 Acorn –Jenny Johnston-Jenny asks if May/June can be combined into one Acorn. Michael says that it is disappointing that there is a lack of participation to support the newsletter. Portia reminds that this is the first year that we have consistently had a newsletter every month. Maggie might have publisher available and will check into that. Jenny is given the go ahead to combine two months into one. All other details will be worked out with administration. No one has volunteered to take over the Acorn.

6.3 Site Maintenance –Chris Rasmussen-no report

6.4 Green –Caryl Brown

- Please tell your families to look through lost and found for their stuff! What is left will be donated to charity (Blue Oak's rummage sale and ARC) on FRIDAY 4/29!

6.5 Events –Summer O'Neill-no report

6.6 History –Kevin Brightling-no report

6.7 Library –Holly Nielsen

- The Library is always in need of volunteers to catalog new acquisitions. Please contact Holly Nielsen at hollylane75@hotmail.com.
- Look for the Adopt-A-Book table at Thursday Market Days: Buy a book for the library and dedicate it to a special event; a birthday or graduation, or a child.
- We also have ongoing book maintenance needs such as book covering and repair and shelf-straightening.
- Remember how lucky our school is to have the use of a wonderful library! When other schools are not able to pay a librarian, their library closes. We could use more volunteer assistance on this front!

6.8 Out-Reach –TBA- Tiffany Wilhelm-

- Before break, I put a notice in the ER for the new charter council community member's position and had a few responses before I left.
- I think it will be critical to have Blue Oak stay in the public eye now that we have a charter. I'll be looking for more ways to do that. Portia confirms that Tiffany is still
- looking for a replacement to be Out-Reach Chair.

6.9 In-Reach/Events-Summer O'Neill-

- KG parents are doing a great job taking their garden to the next level! Special kudo's to Jacquie and Justin Hammer, and Darrin Ferguson for their efforts.
- Other scheduled work on hold pending weekday availability of heavy equipment operators and a work crews.
- Garden and Grounds committee chairperson will be needed for 2011-2012 school year (Tighe stepping down due to changes in his availability).

6.10 Garden & Grounds --Tighe O'Neill-no report

6.11 Parent Volunteer Coordinator --Jessica Hunt-no report

6.12 Hospitality -- Jessica Hunt-no report

6.13 Election --Nick Hlava

Charter Council Elections are almost here!!!!!!

- Elections week will be May 2 thru May 5. Voting will take place in the school lobby from 8:00 to 3:30 daily.
- Voting is open to all parents, employees and current Charter Council members.

There are 5 community member candidates for three seat and 2 parent member candidates for two seats. Look for details on each candidate to be posted on the Blue Oak website and in the Lobby Nick will be looking for volunteers next week to help with voting booth. Nick will confirm hours for voting as he determines who is to be volunteering.

7. School Reports

7.1 School Administrators -- Michael Ramos /Dan La Bar-

Michael discusses the Charter Renewal and the local media perception of our school. Perception has been that our school is in disarray with an unclear direction. Nothing can be further from the truth. The work we have done this year speaks to that. At Sarah's suggestion, Michael visited computers for schools. It was a huge warehouse of computers and other equipment for schools. He obtained a digital projector for a Blue Oak School project he is working on. If you are a student, you can volunteer to work at the facility and earn a free computer. It is an amazing opportunity for our school and he is looking forward to working with the program.

Dan reports that admin. is waiting to hear from the state on whether our charter # will change or not. If it changes that will mean certain things, if it does not change that will mean certain things. Pros and cons to both scenarios. As soon as decision is made we can move forward and inform everyone way or another.

Certain comments have been heard in the halls directed at the charter renewal process and those involved in that process. We need to remain positive and remind everyone that no matter what his or her personal opinions are to try to remain positive and professional especially when you are speaking in a public area.

Task Force Tuesdays is something that we would like to move forward with if everyone agrees. Tuesdays at 6pm.

Faculty group meetings have been every Tuesday morning at 7am about special education and intervention. Conscious discipline was the last topic of discussion. Some of the mentor teachers did a comparison of Waldorf methods and conscious discipline weaving the two together. We are talking about the cost of training and what that would look like. Just initiated a beta test with "dibels" Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills that measures a child with himself over a period to see if the child is at risk for reading difficulty. The 4th grade teachers volunteered to try this out to see how the children respond.

This week we started a friendship club for kindergarten and 1st graders. To teach social skills. Also looking at cross age mentoring. Upper grade kids working with lower grade kids and training for the upper grade kids to give them the tools to be mentors. Went to the Charter Fair-saw other schools-it was a networking and recruiting opportunity.

Hiring for 4 positions next year and looking for folks to serve on the hiring committee.

Caryl Brown speaks about last years hiring committee. Martha McDermott asks if Japanese will be offered next year. Dan responds- presently it is not in our new charter to teach Japanese. Looking at our time frame in the school day we are restructuring many things in order to be more efficient. It is ideal to teach two languages but in looking at other Waldorf schools most teach one language. It can always be revisited in the future.

Caryl asks how many parents does admin. want on the hiring committee. Dan and Michael respond that there presently is no limit.

State budget considerations are being looked at. CST's are scheduled for May 10th, 11th, 12th & 17th, 18th, 19th. Make up for Friday the 20th.

Spring Concert is tomorrow at 6pm. Faculty is bringing a template for school report cards to the next faculty meeting. The end of year narrative on each student is quite long and they are looking for ways to be more efficient with their reporting. Faculty wants to know what the parents think.

Is it quality of the report or is it quantity that we value? Sometimes these reports can be 6 pages long on one student and multiply that by the number of students in a class and it becomes quite time consuming. Sarah Pape comments that a nice succinct paragraph would be fine. Carly Brown comments also that a shorter narrative would be better. Heather comments on her reaction to receiving the end of year report for the first time. Nena concurs with Caryl and Sarah. Dan wraps up discussion on testing week. Carrie Gausemel asks what parents can do to help prepare their children for testing. Dan suggests two simple things, teach the vocabulary of the test and teach multiple choice comparing and contrasting. Michael suggests going on the STARS Testing web site to obtain information that is more specific. Summer concerned with our teacher training over the summer being shortened. Michael responds that budget concerns have influenced admin. to look at other ways to get the teachers the quality training they need.

7.2 Faculty Representative –Melissa Oliver-absent

7.3 Charter Council Representative –Dan Glover reports that the last meeting was the day after our Charter was renewed. Meeting was shorter than usual. Council approved 3 field trips but asked that academics goals and outcomes be included in these trip requests in the future.

8. Officer Reports

8.1 Chair –Chris Grettum-no report

8.2 Co-Chair –Portia Ceruti-no report

8.3 Treasurer –Holly Pladson- Holly distributes financial report. Two pizza deposits this month. Will add current agenda items to report for the next meeting. Sara Parada question on set up for the May Faire. Cost of tables & how do they get paid for? Chris & Portia respond. Summer responds that A&J rental has been used in the past and they have invoiced after the rental.

8.4 Secretary –Maggie Buckley-no report

9. New Business

9.1 Has been struck.

9.2 Funding Request: Productions cost for school video to be posted on BOCS website. Up to \$350. Caryl Brown. Heather motions to approve. Nena seconds. All in favor 15 ayes.

9.2 Funding Request: Pentathlon Games. Up to \$120. Administration request-Portia motions to approve. Elizabeth 2nds motion. Heather questions the actual price per child. (\$40 per child) All in favor 15 ayes.

9.3 Funding Request: Medieval Games. Up to \$1,395 Administration request- Heather questions future funding of Medieval Games. Chris suggests discussion at a later time. Portia asks if this is the full amount? Dan responds yes. Nena says, that at the last class meeting it was discussed that the medieval games are required curriculum in the 6th grade and traditionally parent council supports this event. Chris comments that if this is the expectation maybe it needs to be revisited so next year the following grades do not expect that the parent council is responsible for the cost. Caryl Brown suggests that it would be very helpful to have these expectations for fund raising and the required field trips clearly defined so that there is no confusion. Tighe suggests a future budget plan by the parent council. Portia moves to approve funding request. Sarah Pape makes an amendment to the motion that the request for funding be made to parents of the 6th grade class first before requesting funds from the parent council. Portia seconds the amendment. Nena comments that she thinks Shannon believes that she is operating under school policy and or prior tradition. Dan comments that clearer expectations are needed on both sides. Chris comments that last year parent council did pay for this event and that yes we do need to look at expectations and set clearer guidelines for future especially since the growth of our school is becoming more of a factor as well. Martha concurs that every grade level

needs to know what educational trips they are expected to fund raise for. Chris suggests a Task Force. Heather wants clarification on the present motion on the floor. Portia clarifies. The motion is, a funding request for the medieval games, up to \$1,395 with the 6th grade class being approached first for funding before the parent council is approached. Heather wants to modify parent council bylaws to avoid future issues with this. Chris says that this issue is not something that would be in our bylaws. Sarah Pape comments that this is an on going issue. Caryl Brown

wants to know if this will always be paid for by parent council. Chris suggests a Task Force again. Dan agrees that it should and will be addressed. Chris asks for any other discussion. There is none. All in favor 14 ayes 1 nay. Motion is passed.

10. Close

Motion to adjourn by Chris. Heather seconds the motion. All in favor 15 ayes.

Next Meeting: May 17th 2011

Adjourn time: 9:05pm
