

BeiDouXing Meeting Notes - Monday, May 21, 2012

Kimberly Ruthenbeck & Mary Fabian called meeting to order. Summarized the changes for the Board - Kimberly Ruthenbeck will be taking over the President role from Mary Fabian. Mary Fabian will be taking over the Community Building Chair from Karmen Mannella. Alyssa Barott, former Kindergarten general member - will move into General Member for a 2nd year - instead of just having the kindergarten general member for one year, the kindergarten member will move into a 2 year position allowing the kindergarten general member an additional year to participate and perhaps move into a chair position. New General Member Erika Pals.

This leaves 2 positions on the Board open - Vice President (formerly Kimberly Ruthenbeck) - applications are open for this position & will be voted on before the term ends in July 2012. Kindergarten General Member is open & information to apply will be sent to all incoming Kindergarten families this summer & voted on before school begins.

Kimberly Ruthenbeck went over the Teacher Grants for this year - all kindergarten students received an Abacus as well as one set for each class in Grades 1-4. Ping Pong tables were purchased for IKE last year. Non-English games for the 1st grade classrooms were purchased due to minimal games available and/or the condition of the current games in the classroom.

Laoshi Fund:

In August, 2011, Kimberly Ruthenbeck & Mary Fabian met w/ the District to see how BDX can help XX grow now that we are a 501c3. Because the teachers are required to have a MN License, they need to take courses/tests to get this license. One of the opportunities BDX has it to create a fund to grant money to help the teachers with these costs. District cannot give the teachers money but BDX can - this will help us to be more competitive in hiring and retaining our teachers. This is a great way to support our teachers and will only be available for the teachers actually teaching in the district & the teachers are very excited about it. Karin McKenzie is also taking classes in Singapore Math & this grant will help her w/ some costs. The audio books that the teachers recorded - the money raised will all go back into the Laoshi fund (currently 58 books were sold in 2 days!) In the future, funds from Longevity will be looked at to see if a % can be used toward the Laoshi fund. A suggestion from a parent to add a line item on the overall donation form sent home in September for the Laoshi fund. A suggestion was made that we may want to add some type of stipulation that if the teacher receives a grant, they need to stay in the district for a set period of time or pay back a portion of the grant if they leave the district. This will be looked into.

Sarah Bennett - Treasurer's report - final budget statement for 2011/2012 will be finalized along with the proposed budget for 2012/2013 & will be posted online. A document of how funds are allocated towards the cultural fund (8th grade China trip) will also be posted on the website. The allocation formula was borrowed from the Portland Chinese Immersion parent group - Shu Ren. Assuming Longevity continues to grow each year, this allocation formula will be in place for all grades.

Fundraising Update:

Longevity was VERY successful. Expected profit was around \$10,000 & generated over \$16,000 - checks are still coming in.

Longevity was very successful but was put on by a very small group of people - a request for more volunteers was made to have people get involved for next year - especially anyone with previous auction experience.

Also - if anyone has a laser printer that can print fast - let Kimberly Ruthenbeck know

Next year there will be no Chinook Book sales - main general fundraisers will continue to be the Chinese New Year Festival as well as the monthly dining out fundraising dinners.

Communications Update:

1. On Line Directory: 2012-2013 BDX directory will be on line rather than in print.
2. Web Site: would like to redesign our website to improve site navigation and info management ability. Considering applying through Volunteer America or Nerderly Overnight Challenge next fall. If anyone knows someone with web design skills that might be willing to donate their services let us know.

Community Building update:

China Sprout Book Fair - a great success. Held during Spring Fling as well as the XX School Picnic - sold approx \$3000 worth of books - so will be able to purchase around \$300 to be donated to the library.

Host Families for 2012/2013 guest teachers - there will be 3 guest teachers this year - Terri Siguenza & Molly Wieland interviewed candidates. typically the teachers arrive mid August. We will be looking for host families for the guest teachers. Deb Anderson currently hosting a teacher & says it has been a great experience.

Room Parent update:

Abby Schroeder - summarized end of year gifts: Lead teachers will receive the classroom auction books as well as a \$30 Target gift cert. Assistant teachers/guest teachers will receive a \$50 Target gift cert.

School Supplies are available to be ordered online again this year through 7/12/12. A portion of this is also used as a fundraiser to help teachers with their classroom supply wish list. It was very successful last year - easy to do & the teachers loved the efficiency of it.

Also have a Sunshine Fund for gifts for teachers having babies and one teacher whose mother passed away this year.

Summer playdates & picnic dates as follows:

Summer Dates:

XinXing Summer Playdates: Tues, June 19, Wed, July 18, and Thurs, August 16 at 6:30pm

XinXing Summer Picnic: Tues, August 21 at 6:30pm

Next BeiDouXing Meeting: Monday, Oct 15, 2012

2012/2013 Bei Dou Xing sponsored Events Calendar:

Mon Oct 15 - BDX meeting

Thu- Fri Nov 1-2 0 China Sprout Book Fair

Tues Dec 4 - Chinese Immersion Parent Fair for prospective families

Mon Dec 10 - BDX Meeting

Sat Feb 2 - Lunar New Year Festival

Mon Mar 4 - BDX Meeting

Sat Apr 27 - Longevity Night Out & Silent Auction

Mon May 21 - BDX Meeting

Terri Siguenza spoke - changes happening in the staff - will be hiring 5 Chinese positions this year - more information coming.

Curriculum for 5th grade - will be 50% (core content) each in English & Chinese. All 5th graders will be on 2nd floor but not sure of locations yet - will be construction again in the building to make room as needed. Band or Orchestra choice for 5th graders as well.

Jr High planning continues.

MCA tests - some students were able to retake the tests this year - next year there will be a practice test before the real test but no longer able to retake - very few XX students had to retake the tests.

IKE is still measured for AYP but we are no longer under penalty for AYP

No plans to add any additional classes to XX for the future - will continue to stay with 2 classes per grade level.