

Minutes of PAG Meeting
Of November 14, 2011

In Attendance: **Leo Stegman, Thea Daniels, Nancy Johnston, Dale Allen Boland, Devra Laner, Sandi Hunt, Alejandra Nunez, Rachel Penn, Ashley Milton, Nick Pleskac, Mauren Katz, Joyce Selkow, Matt Meyer, Andi Fargeiux, Mario Aranha, Brie Regis**

Teachers expressed their deep satisfaction at the Acme treats that are being delivered to their Monday morning meetings and at the Kleenex and post its that were given. They said little things can go a long way.

Fundraising - Sandi Hunt began stamping the return address on our BIHS annual fundraising appeal. She has (with an assist from Kinkos) been sole source of this effort. The annual fundraising letter will go out. Many thanks to Sandi who has handled this entirely on her own. The social media project has been postponed til early next year. Sandi said maybe February. We have \$4500 in our PAG fund.

Infrastructure – The PAG leadership is committed to documenting what is done in ways that can be accessed by next groups of leadership. Committees are asked to document what works and what doesn't. Devra has uploaded 75 documents to be shared into Dropbox. Dropbox was discussed, i.e. how to share documents, how they're stored, how much space one has to upload documents and how to invite others. More need to get up to speed on it.

Field Trips: There are eight people interested in helping with trips. Devra thought it'd be great if there was one trip per grade that repeated every year (e.g. Arab Film Festival in 9th grade). Devra asked if there was or could be a sheet which listed all the curriculum for each grade. This would be a helpful tool for the committee to search for field trips. It'd be great to also get interesting speakers to come to us. The question was asked, "Can we use the Community Theater or the Little Theater" and Ashley said yes we can.

Outreach: Maureen spoke of the mentoring program IB&Me that she's been working on. It's become clear that the kids will need adult guidance and volunteers to help implement the program. She was hoping to do a targeted "ask" of parents who have expressed interest in volunteering.

We also discussed the Parents' Night Out. We talked about having it at a bar vs. on campus, making it an international food event or just having an activity around food, maybe small parties at different restaurants. Some thought kids should be invited, others not. The final consensus was to do all of it, or as much as we can.

Newsletters: Our former volunteer has bowed out and we're looking for someone else to take the reins on this. Ideas for topics: "Where are they now", goings on in classrooms, reports back from alums, profiles on students/teachers. It's whatever people with energy around it want to make it.

Writers Coach Connection: We need volunteers who want to take the training. We have 12 spots that are paid for. The training for this program is costly, so they've made a deal with one of the WCC staff to come to BHS and train an original group of 12 who will then train future volunteers. Having our own regulars who can come in and work with kids allows for more flexible schedules for volunteers, who make a regular (1x or 2x/week) commitment with WCC.

Homeless Youth: We heard from Nancy Johnson, BUSD Coordinator for Children and Youth in Temporary Housing Services. She said there are 350 9-12 graders who are currently homeless. She was explaining the McKinney-Vento Act to us which was enacted to protect homeless youth. She said it is illegal to ask kids to pay for anything in school (e.g. \$80 calculators). She said kids will become homeless around some trauma (divorce, foreclosure, etc.). They tend to be embarrassed and not tell anyone. Matt Meyer spoke directly to Nancy and said it'd be helpful for the teachers to know which kids are homeless so they can approach them first if things come up that require \$\$\$. Nancy said that she used to have a list and that she could compile one again. Matt suggested the best way to disseminate the information would be through the counselors. Nancy is right across the street and she can help kids with all kinds of problems/issues: dental, substance abuse, etc. She's in the Student Access Office, Room 8.