

February Meeting Minutes Black Rock School SGC

Attendance: Steve Cassidy, Cindy Avery, Christina Bell, Jennifer Bryan, Stephanie Collins, Lauren Daly, Christopher Geist, Luz Sanchez, Zoe Siciliano-Kenney, Sue Ellen Powell, Bahati Walker.

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm

The minutes of the January meeting were updated (see below) and approved:

- Include Alyssa Zebrowski in attendance.
- Clarification on role of PAC and fundraising to read: Mr. Cassidy confirmed that Annual/Capital Campaign Funding would be housed under SGC's Fundraising Committee, whereas PAC would undertake smaller engagement projects that are typically offset by PAC's annual budget.

Principal's report:

- Spirit week was a success. The idea came from the Jr. National Honor Society.
- Coming up: Reading Madness with the theme borrowed from March Madness. Students will tally the number of books read. Culminates with Book Fair (week of April 4th).
- BRS student named City Champion in the City Science Fair. The student will be going to the state level.
- A partnership with the Carib Foundation for tutoring sessions in writing code for computer programming.
- \$2,000.00 grant was received for improved attendance. Funds will be used for student engagement.
- Scholastic News subscriptions: All teachers in grades 2 – 6 responded that they would like it to participate.

Progress Reports:

- No takers yet on Robert Foley and Phil Blagys. They are offering sessions on local history to our students. Mr. Cassidy to email info again to teachers
- Mind escape Fundraiser: No report.
- PAC: Bahati waiting to hear from Felicia as to how PAC and SGC can partner on events.
- Lockheed- Martin will be put off until next year.

Fundraising:

- Mind Escape fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to kick this off or get seeds planted for next school year.
- Donors Choose: There are 6 open projects and 2 expire in a week. A previous project was funded following one of Mr. Cassidy's weekly emails to parents and other subscribers. Cindy sent simplified language to Mr. Cassidy to include at the bottom of all weekly emails moving forward.
- BRCC mailing list: Cindy will try to obtain
- Pancake breakfast/ spaghetti dinner: No response from the Cuban American club or the Norden Club. Sue Ellen has a connection with the President of the Norden Club and will reach out to connect them with Cindy for follow up discussion.

- Penny Wars: NJHS usually has a penny wars fundraiser. Mr. Cassidy would like the committee to check in with Ms. Rossi.
- SQUARE 1 art.com: Sue Ellen gave us the name of the art teacher, Ms. Negri, at Discovery magnet. The program is a great fundraiser but takes a lot of work from the art teacher. Discussion followed. Sales might be better during December. The program produces items from student artwork. Bahati will follow up with Mr. Brandon to gauge his interest/willingness to coordinate. If he is willing to proceed, Sue Ellen will ask Ms. Negri to offer best practices tips.
- Spring Musical: Mr. Geist reported that we have been granted an extension of our performance license for “Suessical Kids.” A date needs to be selected. Mr. Brandon, our art teacher, will provide a wish list of items. Discussion followed on having indoor events under COVID restrictions.
- Sue Ellen discussed having Lauren Tarsis, the author of the *I Survived* series of books, to come to work with our students. She will contact Lauren.
- New idea is an adult “paint and partake.” This would be an out-of-school event for parents and would be in a party-like setting. Ms. Siciliano Kenny has contact with the person who provides this service. The company is called Topsy Bristle. She will follow up with a report at the next meeting. Sue Ellen will also contact Lori Bloom to see if she is interested as well.
- Hands on Pottery: There needs to be at least ten students to sign up. Discussion followed. There could be matching funds provided for students. 8th grade graduation activity is a possibility, kids could paint a memory. Mr. Cassidy thinks the program is better for 3 – 5th grades. Alyssa suggested setting up a booth in front of the school during porch fest as a fund-raiser.
- Black Rock School night at a local restaurant. Sue Ellen would like to investigate this and will report.

Old Business: none

New Business: None

Next meeting March 16th at 5:30 pm.