

Balboa Spirit Club
Meeting Minutes by Kristy Ketchel
Monday, November 2, 2020, 7:00pm

1. Welcome (Laurie)
2. Principal's Update (Ms. Chun) – Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for being part of the BSC. She mentioned that at the staff meeting, the teachers shared that getting to know the students has happened a different way this year but that they feel like they've been able to establish a community within in the class. She mentioned that parent teacher conferences are coming up and will be scheduled if they haven't been yet. November 13 is the last day of the grading period and grades will be available in the portal after that time. The next Fun Fridays are coming up – Friday, 11/13 is grades 1-3, Friday, 11/20 is grades 4-5. Ms. Bronson is putting together the Balboa Times and submissions are coming from all grade levels. The next issue will come out mid-November. She also mentioned that they'd like for the school to collaborate with BSC. Ms. Bronson explained that there's a Candy Split drive right now (through Thursday, 11/5) in a box inside the office. She said they've done a Food Drive, Clothing Drive, and Sock Drive in the past, and wanted to see if BSC could help put together a Drive for the holidays. Heather Salazar mentioned onewarmcoat.org. She also described the Balboa Times – it's a Student Council newsletter on Google slides that was sent to the teachers to distribute. It's growing as students are getting more excited about it. Any parents who are interested in helping create a Drive can email Ms. Bronson (abronson@lausd.net) with ideas. Ms. Chun mentioned that everyone should take the School Survey (parents, 4th and 5th graders, and staff). She also said that for parents looking for more middle school information, on Thursday 11/5, 1-5pm, there's a Unified Enrollment Virtual Booth (look at the School Website calendar). Also Ms. Chun and Mrs. Taguchi have been doing Balboa School Q&As for prospective Balboa scholars – the last one is on Friday, 11/6. For the garden, Earl (facilities) found that the sprinklers are working and it's just a valve issue, so garden will be able to be watered that way instead of manually.
3. Parent Workshops (Lisa) – Lisa asked if there are any workshops that parents are interested in, please contact her. Current ones that she's working on -- Conflict Resolution within the house (like across siblings), 5 Love Languages. Anyone with ideas can call the School Office to talk to Lisa or email her at lisa.henderson@lausd.net.
4. CFO Update (Will) – Will shared the YTD budget. He says we're on track for spending on amounts so far, and Compass Fund monthly commitments are still continuing to come in.
5. Community Outreach Update (Angel & Susie) –
 - a. Pumpkin Carving Contest – Susie mentioned that we got good feedback about the pumpkin maze and we'll hope to use that again for the Festival of the Arts.
 - b. Winter Events – Angel will send an email about a virtual beer tasting for November. Suzy mentioned that she's thinking that we could do a grade level escape room in November, possibly doing it in the school so kids can see the school as a virtual escape room at Balboa. They are thinking about a gingerbread contest in December, and possibly using the maze format for that again. For Community Outreach, there is a group Friends of the Family (near Balboa) where families will drive by and we would put cans in their trunk to hand out. They're hoping to do a movie night and Toy Drive in December. For the movie night, it'll be

at the Encino baseball fields in the parking lot. BSC would host a movie in the parking lot and sell refreshments.

6. COMPASS Fund Incentives Update (Kristen) – The Balboa Strong mask and tote bag are in! Pick up times Thursday 11/5 7:30-8:30am and Friday 11/6 3:30-4:30pm. Valerie and Sonia will be passing them out at the front of the school. Sonia will email all the eligible families on Tuesday 11/3 afternoon (\$350+ per student is mask, \$500+ per student is bag, and matching gifts are not included in the calculation). Mrs. Chun and Lisa mentioned that there's a 4th grade pickup on Thursday 11/5 7:45-9am, so Sonia is going to reschedule the one for Thursday. Mrs. Chun said other mornings should work, except that there is a 2nd grade pickup on Monday 11/9 7:30-9am
7. Upcoming Programs
 - a. Restaurant Fundraiser for November (Laurie) – Churi has been organizing some great events. For November, it may be Zankou Chicken, and she'll circulate details when they're available.
 - b. Book Fair (Tin Lai) – Book fair is scheduled for Monday 11/9- Sunday 11/22. She'll send out a code to log in to a website, and parents sign up an account to order books and knickknacks. For orders of \$25+ on books it's free shipping (no free shipping on knickknacks). Balboa will get 25% back in Scholastic Bucks to the teachers and library to be able to order from the catalogs to order books and school supplies.
 - c. Teacher and Staff holiday (Gali) – Gali is working on new ideas in lieu of the normal teacher and staff luncheon. Mrs. Chun said that we won't be able to host an event in person even in small groups. Gali suggested giving a xxx or xxx (description withheld for confidentiality). She priced the item at \$20. Kristen suggested having a committee meeting to discuss, and then bring a proposal to the larger group. Other vendor suggestion could check out for price comparison – Flores Creations (Jerardo Arciniega). Gali setting planning meeting time for Wednesday, 11/11.
 - d. Sam Masada asked if we'll be doing a book drive. Laurie said we'll have to talk about whether it makes sense because we haven't done on campus events so far this year.
8. Expenditures for consideration and approval
 - a. Balboa Garden (Laurie) – Laurie explained that the Balboa Garden is a unique and special part of the school that is used during the school year when we're in person. Kelly Mitchell has been going even during the shutdown, even hand watering with the sprinklers broken. Laurie proposed renewing Kelly's contract for this year and explained that it's good to have a dedicated person who takes great care. The contract is \$3500 for the year for Kelly to go 6-8 hours per week. Our budget is \$2800 per year, so we'll need to increase the budget in order to retain her. Motion made to increase the budget from \$2800 to \$3500, motion seconded. Vote taken by anonymous online poll – 92% yes, 8% abstain. Item is approved and budget will be approved. We will retroactively pay Kelly from the start of the year and going forward.
9. Program Ideas
 - a. Artificial turf (Julie) – Julie explained that the grassy patch gets muddy and is patchy. She asked Mrs. Chun and if it's maintained by LAUSD and if they resod, and if we could replace with artificial turf. Mrs. Chun said she thinks the sprinklers are leaking, Earl and LAUSD has looked into it and not been able to fix the issue. She said the school would LOVE artificial turf in that spot. Ms. Bronson mentioned that it gets very hot, and some studies have

shown that the particles can be an environment and health hazard, and Balboa applied to the Kirk Douglas Family Foundation grant but the Committee ultimately rejected it for those reasons. Ms. Bronson said that we've gotten two grants from Kirk Douglas Family Foundation for the playground and the garden. Ms. Bronson offered to meet with Julie to share the grant application that was submitted before. Maureen Cohen mentioned that turf has to be replaced about every 10 years, and it can't be near trees for the best maintenance or it has to be raked. Will asked Mrs. Chun if the school would be able to fund anything, she says no. Julie is going to put together a planning committee to discuss.

- b. Fifth Grade Memory Book (Reynalyn) – Reynalyn said that she and Diane were hoping to train a new person this year to help take over Yearbook for next year. Reynalyn said that portraits were the determining factor for not being able to have a yearbook this year. She has other ideas, her main idea is to do a Fifth Grade Memory Book (160 students) to be more managing. She uses Lifetouch for Yearbook, and also looked into Shutterfly and Tree Ring, and decided that Lifetouch is the best vendor. She is waiting to hear that she has 5th grade parent volunteers to help to be able to decide that it's possible to do. She is meeting with 5th grade room parents on Thursday, 11/5. Mrs. Chun explained that it was District decision banning school portraits on campus unless school is open. Reynalyn explained that it will be funded without the BSC paying for anything because parents pay directly to the vendor and it will not go through BSC. Kristen is going to reach out to room parents and grade level chairs to see if it would be possible for the other grades to do the same effort to create a full yearbook.

10. Additional Items – meeting minutes approval. Laurie made a motion to approve August 10, 2020 minutes, Kristen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by 18 yes votes (2 abstain). Laurie made a motion to approve October 6, 2020 minutes, Kristen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by 14 yes votes (5 abstain).

Next BSC General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st.