

REBO Board Meeting Minutes October 8, 2009

The meeting was held in Room 138 and the plan is to continue monthly meetings in this room.

Minutes

Samantha Marrs, REBO chair, distributed copies of today's meeting agenda and minutes from the September 10 meeting. There were no changes made to the minutes. The minutes will be e-mailed to the entire CBG list-serv to keep all parents informed.

Budget Report

Susan Cheatham, REBO treasurer, reported that our current balance is approximately \$700. Each of the 9 CBG teachers received \$150 for classroom supplies. They will report back on how the funds were spent. Five of the CBG teachers will attend the gifted conference in Williamsburg. REBO is paying for their registration, hotel, and food at an approximate total of \$1500. The Aviator team received a new digital camera to share amongst the teachers. Carol Catron will check on whether the team could use a Flip Video camera.

The REBO plans another voluntary fundraiser to provide for teacher training next year. REBO makes money on the t-shirt orders but the 6th grade DVDs lost money.

Principal's Report

Mr. Siddiqi, Robious principal, thanked the group for its participation in two parent education events focused on Expeditionary Learning and Specialty Center selection. He looks forward to the Specialty Center Program on Wednesday, October 14 from 7-8pm, which was spearheaded by Pam Benos and Michelle Oppenheim. He was enthusiastic about the successful EL (Expeditionary Learning) coffees held on Wednesday, October 9.

Implementing EL (Expeditionary Learning) in CBG

One question that arose was how EL fits within the CBG program. Many RMS CBG teachers participated in EL training over the summer. Both Robin Forbes, gifted coordinator, and Martha Turner, CBG guidance counselor, noted the similarities between CBG and EL and that the CBG program was already using many techniques and best practices found in EL. Robin Forbes asked for patience during this one-year period as she and Martha work to integrate some of the EL themes into the existing CBG program.

SpecialtyCenter Evening

Martha Turner explained that the theme of the October 14 parent education event is "What Parents Need to Know When Considering a Specialty Center". The agenda will outline questions that students and families need to address, such as quality of the program, travel to the specialty center, time commitments, etc. There will be a student panel to discuss their experiences, including a non-specialty student. The Governor's school will have a presentation following from 8-9 in the library.

Sixth Grade Venturers

Martine Rose reported that the Venturer students raised over \$500 in change. The teachers have begun their monthly meetings that include birthday cupcakes and student of the month awards. Parent chaperones are in place for the DC field trip on December 17 & 18. Venturers have their Buddies from Falling Creek and are looking forward to this year's events. The spring picnic is tentatively scheduled to be held at Falling Creek Elementary School.

Seventh Grade Navigators

Susan Cheatham and Leslie Hausser recently met with Mrs. Moore, the Navigator Team Lead. The students will go on the Discovery Challenge field trip on October 21 at a cost of \$36.50 per student. Four chaperones will attend and photograph. On December 1, the Navigators will travel to the Landmark Theatre to see ENCORE!! at a cost of \$18. No chaperones are needed for this trip. Susan is currently receiving Navigator t-shirt orders. Susan and Leslie will use signupgenius.com to sign-up parents for various events and supplies.

Eighth Grade Aviators

Carol Catron reported that REBO is providing snacks for the CBG and ASE planning meetings on Thursday afternoons. Carol and Michele Mauney are using an online sign-up form to organize donations for the planning meetings: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/planning>. Parents have been donating generously, and the online sign-up form works very smoothly. Each grade will provide snacks as follows:

8th grade October – December
7th grade January – March
6th grade April – June

The Aviators will have three bagel breakfasts this year. There is also an online sign-up form for this event, which is scheduled for December 9 from 8:30 until 9:30 A.M.:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/aviator>

Additionally, there will be several movie nights planned for Aviator students with good records. Parents expressed a desire for more in-school service opportunities for eighth grade students, so Mrs. Estes and Mrs. Stanley will work with REBO team parents to plan volunteer opportunities.

Website and Mass e-mail communications

Pam Benos is in charge of the gmail accounts for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. A new website is currently under construction for REBO with help from the Midlothian EBO. Please send all suggestions for the new website to swmarrs@vcu.edu.

Gifted Advisory Council Meeting

Susan Cheatham, Leslie Hausser and Samantha Marrs attended the Gifted Advisory Council (GAC) meeting on Thursday, Oct 1. The GAC is appointed and tasked with making recommendations to the School Board. At this last meeting, more parents were in attendance

than council members. Middle school CBG issues need to be better represented on the GAC agenda. Samantha will bring the group's by-laws to the next REBO meeting, and she encouraged everyone to consider attending some of the GAC meetings this year. The next GAC meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 6:30pm at the School Board office on Krause Road off Rt 10.

November Meeting

The next REBO board meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 1:45 p.m. in the Room 138.

Minutes submitted by,
Claudia Marlow, REBO Secretary

10/8/09 REBO Meeting Attendees

Michelle Oppenheim, Pam Benos, Jeanne McLemore, Kris Branch, Melissa King, Samantha Marrs, Susan Cheatham, Robin Balsamo, Leigh Hermann, Jane Scheibe, Lesley Holbrook, Carol Catron, Robin Forbes, Martine Rose, Tonya Walker, Lori Phillips, Martha Turner, Javaid Siddiqi