

REBO Board Meeting Minutes November 12, 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, the October 8 REBO minutes, the November 5 gifted education advisory committee minutes, and the proposed fundraising appeal. Any changes to the minutes should be sent to the secretary, Claudia Marlow, by Monday, November 16.

Principal's Report

Mr. Siddiqi and Ms. Forbes attended the CBG Principals' meeting. Their meeting included discussion on developing a parent form to submit questions to the gifted office regarding the future of their student's CBG program. The CBG programs at Matoaca and Manchester are commuter based whereas Robious and Midlothian programs have local students.

Mr. Siddiqi asked if the REBO felt this was necessary for Robious at this time. After much discussion, it was concluded that the best time for a conversation with CBG parents is to wait until the budget shortfall proposal is released. It will be a meeting similar to the one held in early 2009. He reminded us that the budget announcements are bleak and that stimulus funds available for '09-'10 will not be available for '10-'11. There is a potential for loss of teachers and a focus on streamlining the language program.

Budget Report

Before beginning the REBO budget report, Samantha reminded everyone to make sure they have joined the PTA, since the school is near 100% participation and that the PTA "no-buy" fundraiser raised \$18,000!

Susan Cheatham, REBO treasurer, reported that our current balance is \$1841.25. REBO funds go back to the classroom in the form of supplies and training. The team t-shirts, year-end parties, and fundraising appeal provide the income.

Susan Cheatham will e-mail the family donation appeal to the CBG families using gmail. Marybeth Grinnan will work with her to see if PAYPAL can be attached to the notice for ease of donation.

Sixth Grade Venturers

The parent meeting for the DC trip was very productive. Venturer parent comfort levels are up due to two good years of experience with this trip.

Venturers travelled to Falling Creek on Friday November 6. They met their 2nd grade buddies and brought picture books to read with them.

Seventh Grade Navigators

Susan and Leslie reported the t-shirt orders are complete with all but 2 students ordering.

The students enjoyed a successful field trip to Discover Challenge on October 21 with 4 chaperones in attendance.

The next field trip is December 1 to see ENCORE at the Landmark. Appropriate attire is required.

Leslie has a list of parent volunteers signed up to help with classrooms needs (bulletin boards, etc...) and is coordinating with the teachers for projects. She also suggests that parents can volunteer through the PTA for opportunities to serve at Robious.

Eighth Grade Aviators

Movie night is Friday, November 13 from 6-9 and 38 students have bought tickets. Parents are donating snacks and drinks that students can buy with Aviator bucks during the movie.

T-shirt orders are now closed and will take two weeks for arrival.

The Aviator bagel breakfast is Wednesday, December 9, from 8:30 until 9:30 AM. All needed items have been donated, but more volunteers for serving would be helpful.

8th grade parents will continue to bring snacks for the teachers' Thursday afternoon planning time through November and December. People have been donating generously and the teachers are very appreciative.

SpecialtyCenter Evening

The October 14 Specialty center evening was a success based on parent feedback! And it is suggested to continue it for next year. A useful addition to the program would be a parent panel/perspective.

Mrs. Turner continues to remind 8th grade students and parents to watch and meet the deadlines for teacher recommendations and specialty center applications.

Guidance Issues-Mrs. Turner

Mrs. Turner is coordinating a Career Day for 8th grade in January. She will use the REBO speakers list to match student interests.

Mrs. Turner received many questions about the recent NJHS induction. Students must fulfill several requirements: 1) a GPA of 3.8 (unweighted basis), 2) completion of the application, with ALL sections filled out and 3) completion of an essay written in school during CREW time.

This year, a total of 200 students were eligible with a final of 40 students inducted. Many students lost points on the grading of the applications. For future years, tips will be posted on EDLINE to help students fill out their application to best highlight their achievements.

Miscellaneous – Ms. Forbes

Ms. Forbes is working to implement authentic assessments into the school-wide curriculum and will identify 3 teachers to go to this conference in the January/February time frame.

Mrs. Stanley announced plans to hold an art gallery evening in January for 7th and 8th grade ASE students involved in art related activities. (Stanley, Arnold, Caruso)

Ms. Forbes is currently working with ASE teachers to limit out-of-ASE time to complete ASE projects.

Mrs. Turner and Ms. Forbes are revising the intervention plan for struggling students.

At the DC parent meeting, the 6th grade teachers put out a request for donations of old greeting cards.

Gifted Advisory Council Meeting

The minutes from the November 5 meeting are included in the handouts. The parent advisory panel has been fully appointed and the next meeting is scheduled in January.

Budget Concerns

The county is hosting a number of meetings for residents to communicate their concerns with the upcoming budget. One such meeting will be held at James River High School on Monday November 23. All are encouraged to attend and to share your comments on educational funding.

December Meeting

The next REBO board meeting is scheduled for December 10 at 1:45 p.m. in the Room 138.

Minutes submitted by,
Claudia Marlow, REBO Secretary

11/12/09 REBO Meeting Attendees

Samantha Marrs, Claudia Marlow, Robin Balsamo, Leigh Herrmann, Marybeth Grinnan, Gretchen Tombes, Carol Catron, Michele Mauney, Lori Phillips, Leslie Hausser, Susan Cheatham, Amy Moghanaki, Sara Sommerville, Michelle Oppenheim, Robin Forbes, Martha Turner, Javid Siddiqi