



## **MINUTES – EBO meeting #4**

**January 10, 2008, 2pm**

**Attending: Pam Benos, Kris Branch, Samantha Marrs, Michelle Payne, Debbie Ramos, Lesley Holbrook, Kume Goranson**

Pam and Samantha distributed an agenda, a financial report, a draft description of the REBO, and a calendar.

1. MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORT: Samantha distributed the December minutes and financial report. Lesley commented on one addition: she and Debbie Ramos volunteered to help Mr. McEwen should he need anything. The other assignments are Kris to Mrs. Cook and Jeanne McLemore to Mrs. Estes.
2. DC FIELD TRIP: There was brief discussion about the DC fieldtrip. Everyone expressed gratitude to Kris for pulling together the dinner, the packets, and the journals; to Bill Benos for arranging the Canadian Embassy event; and Debbie Ramos and other parents who helped with cookies, snacks, and chaperoning. The overall reviews were outstanding, and the EBO will be in a good position to assist Mrs. Cook and co. for next year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip.
3. EBO COORDINATION: Samantha reported on her meeting with representatives from the other 3 EBOs in Chesterfield County. The EBOs will continue to meet periodically to share best practices and information to support the families in the CBG. There are two main projects for the EBOs to collaborate on this winter/spring. We need volunteers to attend OR LEAD planning committee meetings for the following:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social – proposed idea to hold a 6<sup>th</sup> grade event in Rockwood or Pocahontas Park on a Saturday in late April or early May. May be around a theme, with team-building, food, and fun. Ideas welcome!
  - “Making the Most of your Middle School Years” – an April/May evening event to educate families of rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade CBG students on opportunities and activities of interest to families, e.g. specialty center information and preparation for high school applications. Building a Brag Sheet. Testimonials from 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Ideas welcome! Kris and Debbie volunteered to be part of this effort, and Samantha will send them Rosalynn Lucas's contact information – she is the president of the Midlothian EBO

In the future, the four EBOs could work together to communicate with the school board and with the superintendent, especially with regard to CBG investment, to teacher training/qualification/selection, and to the strategy for placement and growth of programs county-wide. The School board appoints citizens to the Gifted Advisory Council, and Mrs. Estes is on that Council, as is Mrs. Zimmerman. Once the websites are all up and coordinated, information can be more easily shared with parents on opportunities and current issues facing gifted education in the county.

4. TEACHER IDENTIFICATION: Kume responded to REBO questions about identifying teachers for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade CBG program. She said that the school administration has met with Mrs. Zimmerman and with the teachers, and they are optimistic to identify qualified teachers. It is possible that the programs will have to be shared across teams – meaning that some teachers will teach both CBG and non-CGB classes during the transition to building the full CGB program. It will be helpful to explain this to parents in the future.
5. TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Each teacher has been assigned one point person in case they need any assistance in school – or if they have a project coming up and parents can help. At this time, the teachers have asked that parents help only on specific dates this Spring, and for any other help, they will contact Mrs. Benos or their point person for volunteers.
6. HOLIDAY CARD PROJECT: We discussed the proposed Valentine Day service project – where the students might create Spring cards for inclusion in Meals for Wheels deliveries. There did not seem to be much enthusiasm for coordinating this project, so we will revisit whether the EBO wants to sponsor a 6<sup>th</sup> grade service opportunity in the Spring.

The meeting concluded at 3pm. Next meeting February 7, 2pm.