

**Buffalo Ridge Educational Alliance**  
**General Meeting**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Call to order: 11:10 am**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Diane Stavaski**

**President's message: Carrie Manion**

\*A motivational message was read

\*Thank you to the following: Elean Gersack for coffee with principal, Sue Westen for coordinating, Lori Soechtig and Jill Casper for Family Game Night, Lori S. and Gilda Daboub for Fun Night of Science, Liz Kampschroeder for helping with safety committee, Tricia Wackerly for ballot issues, Elean Gersack and Jessica Kirby for Banner newsletters, Lynn Baer for coordinating school supplies for sister school, Carin Kirkegaard, Renita Mundwiller and Kathy Mercer for Book Fair.

\*Next coffee with Principal: this Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> in Oak Hills.

\*Book Fair very successful—tons of book requests were filled.

\*Master calendar has a few incorrect dates in the BRE directory. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (not the 9<sup>th</sup>) are no school days. Evening with the Arts date will be moved. (will not be Jan 16<sup>th</sup>). General meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> has changed to an evening meeting at 6:30pm. Guest speaker is Jed Bowman from the district. He will be there to address CSAP scores, etc

\*Destination Imagination intro meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm in the library—bring your child. Wendy Hamler will be leading.

\*Motion was made to approve 3 new chair persons: Character Education Chair Christina McDonald, Coffee with the Principal, Sue Westen, Kindergarten Liaison, Vonda Muncy.---**Motion carried**

\*Lap top cart has been purchased.

\*Additional Items that fundraisers paid for: 4 sided book island, Spanish reference libraries, Library wish list filled, and tons of books and book sets for every teacher/classroom at BRE. The Reading Resource Room has been updated and restocked.

\*Tammy Abramovitz would like to thank the 17 families that provided food for teacher conferences.

**Approval of Minutes** -Motion to approve the minutes and seconded from the last meeting. **Minutes approved.**

**Treasurer's report: Joan Gardner**

Going into 2009 with about \$5,200

Book Fair: we received \$10k in books

Took care of teacher startup costs

Purchased portable cart with 15 laptops (Laptop Cart).

Directory was paid for by advertisements for the first time ever!

School supplies gave us an extra \$1200 to help pay for Teacher Startup

We won the Rock Slide for most walkers/runners registered!

**Safety Report: Liz Kampschroeder**

Safety issues at school. We want to make this solution based. We welcome feed-back. Please email Liz if you have other comments. Trying to tackle crosswalks and drop-off. New crosswalk on Oxford and Shoreham---huge issue! Trying to work on best way to have cross-guards there. District recommends that the crosswalk at Monarch be staffed by parent volunteers. We need your help! Liz presented a new schedule for volunteers. Kristin Duran will help coordinate. Need volunteers for one week block in morning and afternoon commitment. 8:45 am to 9:15am and from 3:40 to 4:05. Kristin Duran is volunteer coordinator and will help coordinate with list, vests, etc. There was some talk that people can't commit to morning and afternoon. Can we do either morning or afternoon? Mr. Jensen suggests that we sign up for what we can. Recommend sending an email to the whole school to get more volunteers. Kerri Norris suggests that we be flexible with our schedules. If people can't be there every day, please call to find a replacement. She has been staffing full time and feels very strongly about this issue. A training document is available for those who want to read it. There will be more information in the newsletter. Once we commit as a school to staff this position, it must be staffed.

Question: Should only parents who live by the school do this? No, anyone can help out.

**Principal's Report: Russ Jensen**

Ally apologizes for not being here. Unfortunately due to the election results, she has been pulled out of the building for more and more "stop/drop and roll, top priority" meetings.

**1. Election Results and their impact....DCSD facing further budget reductions**

With the failure of the measures 3A and 3B, DCSD begins its process of identifying an additional \$16 million in budget reductions for the 2009-10 school year.

How does this affect Buffalo Ridge? Possible increased class size and reduction in staff, inability to increase technology opportunities for students, principal pulled out for more meetings

-Final reduction decisions will be made by February 2.

**2. CSAP Information**

-Please plan to attend the BRE meeting on January 21 at 6:30pm to receive a more in depth analysis of our data and what it means to us. Jed Bowman is an expert in this area and has a gift for explaining our data in terms that we are best able to understand. He has already presented to the SAC and is looking forward to meeting with the BRE.

**3. Accreditation**

-On December 9, 2008, a Process Review Team will visit Buffalo Ridge Elementary as a part of the Accreditation Process required by the Colorado Department of Education. The team is comprised of district administrators, building administrators and BRT's. The purpose of this visit is to provide feedback to our school on how we are progressing toward our School Improvement Plan's goals. Our main goal has been and will continue to focus on Writing. The Process Review Team will be looking for evidence of writing across all curricular areas. The PRT will also be observing the culture of thinking at Buffalo Ridge. Are we focused on academics? Is it evident that academics are our priority? Are we striving for academic success? The PRT will analyze our data and do classroom walk-throughs/observations. They will also meet with the Dream Team, SAC and members of the BRE. If you would like to represent BRE in this meeting with the PRT please let Diane and/or Carrie know.

4. **Inclusion Movie** On December 4, 2008 at 6:30 pm in the BRE Gym, Buffalo Ridge Elementary will be hosting the movie, "Including Samuel". We are encouraging anyone and everyone to attend this very important event.

5. **Apple Awards Update** -We encourage parents to nominate teachers. The most important aspect is to get the word out about the online nomination process. Please go online and nominate a teacher you feel is deserving.

**Teacher's Report: Jennifer Jacoway**

Teachers were SO thankful for the books from the Book Fair.

Should teachers be coming to the Family Nights? Carrie says it's up to them. Nice for them to encourage kids to come.

**Student Affairs: Valerie Ferraro**, Nothing to report. SAC sitting tight on their funds to see what happens with fallout from bonds not passing.

**Ways and Means: Angela Carlson**

Financially doing okay, but we will need to figure out how to keep current programs ongoing after bond not passing. We'll know more in February.

Restaurant Nights: Calendars coming monthly to tell which restaurants are sponsoring BRE. Angela is sending out a survey about fundraising, and an email blast to encourage people to voice their opinion. Spring fundraisers on the books—Butter Braids. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am at Dazbog is a fundraising meeting. Please come if you have ideas or opinions. Many people didn't get the email blast—check your parent portal to see if email blasts are checked off. Carrie suggests that we sent out an info form to explain how to get email blasts. Kathy Beech says to call her if we need help. King Soopers can get registered online for Campbells labels for education. \$280 box top money to date—will fund Family Nights. Please continue to bring in grocery bags.

**School Activities: Diane Stavaski for Lori Soechtig**

Family Nights in August and Sept. and Oct. have been well attended. Polar Express is showing in December on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Coffee with the Principal: Sue Westen**

Averaging 15 to 20 people per coffee. Please submit questions, topics etc in advance of the meeting so Ally can be prepared. Going great! Has 10 signed up for this Friday. Anyone interested in hosting in the future please let Sue know.

**Community Outreach: Diane Stavaski for Lynn**

Thank you for the school supplies for our sister school. They would like to do a mitten and hat drive around Thanksgiving, however our school does a clothing drive. Does this interfere? Jen Jacoway says no—these are gently used things. Raise of hands ----everyone agreed to do the mitten and hat drive.

**Legislation Chair: Tricia Wackerly and Mike Heflebower**

There will be a link on the district website for parents to provide feedback. Transportation is a big deal, programs, some elementary schools may move to track based on enrollment. \$7 million cut in personnel and administration. RHMS is in limbo regarding construction of new building additions. They are already overcrowded. If you are upset about your election results, turn to your community. Go to the elected officials—they didn't back us up.

**Room Parent : Gina Landis absent.** We'll wait until the next meeting.

**Spirit Wear: Kelly Wirkus absent.** Today is the final deadline.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Nov. 4	Coffee w/ Principal in Oak Hills
Nov. 17-18	Vision/Hearing Screening
Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 4	<i>Including Samuel</i> —Parent Night
Dec. 5	Movie Night at BRE 6:30pm
Dec. 9	BREA exec board Mtg with Accreditation Process Team from 9:00am – 9:30am
Dec. 19	No school
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 12	BREA Exec board Mtg
Jan. 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade show
Jan. 19	No school
Jan. 21	BREA general Mtg at 6:30pm

**Meeting Adjourned: Carrie Manion.**