

March 9, 2015



Board Minutes

Board Members _____ present: Kim Ambrose, Jen Meiring, Somya Bergman, Amanda Davis, Dawn Scheck, Deb Rempert, Marcie Mefford, Nancy Kerr, Jan Wright, Deb Nielsen

Board Members absent: Nicholas Davis

Other guests: Sue Minnec, Sue Locke, Amy Biancheri, Andy Mareska, Kathy Evangelista, Beth Schroeder

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

Guest Speaker- Amy Biancheri, President of Batavia Education Association (BEA)

Amy spoke about the upcoming School Board elections, which will be held on April 7th.

- There are eight candidates vying for three positions.
- The Batavia Education Association interviews each candidate and looks for the candidates who are most pro-student.
- This year they have chosen three candidates to endorse and gave some flyers about the candidates. The three candidates are as follows:
 - Cathy Dremel: former AGS parent and current School Board president,
 - John Dryden: former Batavia High School Social Studies teacher, and
 - Chris Lowe: co-PTO president at Hoover-Wood and co-founder of the Batavia Watch D.O.G.S. program.
- The only funding BEA does is through the sale of yard signs
- BATV has recordings of all the candidates speaking for themselves. Also, there is another meeting at the library on March 25th at 6pm where all the candidates will be present.

Guest Speaker-Sue Locke, School Board member

Sue has two more years in her term and would like to highly encourage us to watch BATV in regards to the upcoming elections and the candidates.

Sue attended our meeting to discuss technology. The School Board will be voting in April on how to continue the rollout of Chromebooks. They are questioning which grade levels should receive devices, the ratio of devices, and use of devices. They would like some parent feedback. The next board meeting is on March 24 where they will discuss these items and vote on them at the next month's meeting, April 28th. Currently the views of the School Board are mixed. Here was our feedback:

- We like the technology but hope that teaching and assignments are not all done on screen. Students still need to learn how to write.
- A percentage plan or guidelines for technology teaching and non-technology teaching is not in place. The discretion is up to the teachers.
- The technology is fine but we need to ensure good programming and applications. Some apps seem low on content by being simple games with little math for example.
- For the ECC, iPads are used in various ways and good for students to share in order to promote social interaction. Keyboarding is not good for ECC.
- If students are not allowed to bring the devices home, a strain occurs at the home for families who share one computer to complete assignments.

- There are concerns about ergonomics while using technology at school. Are our desks and chairs equipped to ensure good posture?

Guest Speaker-Kathy Evangelista, Clothing Resale

- As of 3/9/15, we are close to where we were 5 days before the Fall sale with 77 registered sellers, 52 entering and over 9600 items with a value over \$25,800.
- We are aiming to come close to numbers from this fall and last spring with 80 entering, over 15,000 items and about \$45,000 in value.
- We are looking for 1-2 more Board members to work the sale specifically in money taking roles on Friday from 5-8:30pm.
- We have our own Facebook page since we get questions year round. We'd like to create our own website or add a separate page to the AGS website if it's being redesigned.
- We had a small issue with signs. The city used to allow us to place 8 large signs but will now only allow 3 due to city ordinance changes. We were able to place a couple on school district property (Rotolo and District building) but the remaining signs are to be saved if off-site storage is available.
- Kathy has been playing phone tag with JB Nelson in regards to pairing clothing sales. She also reached out to Grace McWayne. Louise White will only do a spring sale. They borrow our supplies, put wear and tear on them but don't give us anything for the use.
- Heather Kwitschau and Danielle Fajardo are the co-chairs for next year. Kathy will stay on to help train.
- After the sale, should we leave the scanners in the safe room? Yes.
- Hoover-Wood has given us their equipment and would like \$700 for it. We are going to offer \$200 and access to our Fun Fair decorations.

Introductions

- Sue Minnec is our nominee for next year's Classroom Support
- Andy Mareska is our nominee for next year's Treasurer.
- Beth Schroeder will not be returning as Movie Nite co-chair and would like to know what to do next. She announced at the last event that a replacement was needed. She will do the same at the next event and tell the attendees that it will be the LAST Movie Nite unless someone steps up.

Secretary

- Calendar
 - There have been a couple of changes and the calendar includes the upcoming Dine Arouns, Field Day and Last Day of School.
 - Skate Night will be removed.
- Approval of the February board minutes.
 - Somya Bergman motioned to approve the minutes. Nancy Kerr seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer-A.Davis

- We reviewed budget report.
- We are waiting for one reimbursement from Fun Fair. We will be under budget for Fun Fair.
- An assembly was put on the Field Day budget by accident.
- In regards to our larger events (FunFair, Gator Gallop, etc), committee chairs and board members should be handling the money.

1st VP- J.Meiring

- Yearbook: is coming along well and should be finished by Spring Break

- Spirtwear is doing awesome.

2nd VP-S.Bergman

- Special Appropriations are due March 26th.
 - Mrs. Ashby asked for \$440 for the offset of books that were purchased in the Fall.
 - We will still have \$440 for special appropriations.
 - We received a 'thank you' from the first grade teachers for the book boxes.

Communications-M.Mefford

- Batavia Interschool Council (BIC)
 - In regards to the other PTO's and ECC, Amanda is going to invoice J.B. Nelson for \$300. Their principal was contacted and is onboard with the donation. Grace McWayne asked to be invoiced for the next ECC field trip. We will not be receiving anything from H.C. Storm unless there is excess at the end of the school year. So we will have received donations from 4 out of the 5 other elementary schools. We will be getting \$1200 out of the possible \$1500.
 - Sue Gillerlain, the district Communication Manager, has a form for items we'd like to put into the district e-news.
 - Batavia has a unique opportunity to partner with 3 other districts and Aurora University with the John C Dunham STEM school (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). We can send 50 students currently in 2nd -7th grade (entering 3rd-8th) via an application basis. Batavia can send 2 teachers as well. This partnership allows any student within the district to summer workshops.
 - Also discussed at the BIC meeting:
 - PARCC testing and how it's going
 - School Board elections
 - BIC committee is reviewing its bylaws. Our board may need to designate 2 people to go to the meetings, one who consistently goes and the other member can rotate. They also need a co-chair.
 - Charles Napravinik from Hoover Wood was talking about the launching of their new school app. The first year cost \$400 then \$200 every year after. They have to pay for the Apple Store and the Google Store. We're not sure if this is through como.com or not. We discussed having an app vs. website. We still need a website for legal purposes but are looking for the site to be more mobile friendly. Kim will discuss more with Andy Mareska and Bob Paulin.
 - A question was asked about how much money/funds can be legally bankrolled to the next year according to 501(c)3 status.

Classroom Support-N.Kerr

- Head Room Parents
 - Mrs. Jensen Spring Musical is tomorrow (March 10) for the 3rd-5th graders
 - Mrs. Cannon is getting the Art Show going and getting sign-ups ready
 - Field Day is May 22nd. There will not be inflatables this year.
 - Mr. Park needs help with the gymnastic unit.
 - Teacher Appreciation meeting will occur on March 20th. We are looking for teacher gift ideas. We will be keeping the week simple: breakfast the first day, a note, flower, color, lunch and chiropractor visits.
 - Head Room Parents need to start planning end of year picnics.

- FunFair

Overall:

- Fun Fair 2015 Gator Swamp Stomp was a success. Met our goal of turning the school into a cypress swamp. Recycling jungle FF. “transporting our students to a gator swamp”. All of the kids had a great time. There were no tragedies, no huge mistakes, no one got hurt etc. Most everything went as planned. Anything that didn’t – didn’t matter.
- Still using the magic formula of \$10 wristband, unlimited games, goody bag, and 2 prizes at each game.
- No parent complaints this year. (only inside PTO board and FF team constructive feedback)
- Despite that, I still have an 8-page list of feedback for myself and FF Team.

Bottom Line:

- Made \$8,000. Took in \$12500, spent \$4500. Breakdown: Admissions= \$5000, Raffles \$4200, Food \$2500, Donations: \$800 (last year we took in \$16,000, spent \$7,000) the goal was to take in \$14000, and spend \$4,000. We budgeted for \$8500. So we are \$500 under projected profit. Why? Budget for \$7000 next year. (I have some theories why)
- Attendance was down. Raffles and Food did about same as last year. Big donations were down.
- Attendees: 495, 20-30 EC hour. Last year 540, and 60 EC hour. 500 attendees is our threshold. Families sick and out of town. 100 less people is \$1000 right there.
- Presales were up, most likely due to new reserved goody bags concept. 170 reserved wristbands/goody bags. \$3900 in presales, last year was \$3500, 133 wristbands. Only 7 EC wristband sales.
- 4 families used family \$30 cap. One was for cousins, we let it slide. Next year ticket order form will say ‘Immediate Family Only’.
- No Free tickets to FF team/AGS staff: We agreed to continue paying for our wristbands. 15 on FF team, 2 kids ea. – 30 wristbands - \$300 loss – (entire decorations budget).
- AGS purchased wristbands for 3 needy families. I don’t recall this happening prior years. AGS has fund and that was nice. We do not want to open up free wristbands for anyone on assistance. Hoover Wood does this and 100 of 400 students qualify and get a free wristband.
- Teachers: Shower was not profitable. Made \$209 while the cost is \$250. 6 staff. Still sat around. No next yr. Or consider, it’s still great PR/fun for the kids and is a cheap rental game at \$41.
- Raffles were about the same: 60 items + 5 SA (59 items last year). About same amount of donations, not the big Wii or bike, no Cubs tickets. 63 donors (73 last year). Total sales \$ 4200, last year \$4600. More begging this year. Need new raffle chairs/classroom baskets next year.
- Food about the same: Sam’s food more expensive, but Gumbo donated: \$2500, again slushie machine and cotton candy if just break even, still fun.

Volunteers:

- All games were covered. Nata-Leigh Preas’ SUG and grid was great. She calculates needs 250 volunteers.
- As of 3 weeks prior, we had 65 openings. On 2/22, we had 20 spots open, all spots that should have had adults, mostly in the 2nd shift. Put out the plea, parents stepped forward. According to the grid, 169 spots – 96 adults. Will tweak web sign up next year for adult vs. kids.

- BHS showed up. Got creative with kids in spots with parents overseeing. Same 16 teachers worked. Nobody from the support staff worked. Target didn't donate time due to a communication error. We will ask Kohl's next year.
- EC hour. Did 5-8 kids start at 4:45? If so, then game workers didn't look at wristbands. Clearly white wristband from 4-5. Camo bands were used from 5-8. Was this because kids were working games during EC hour? Need to be stricter with wristbands.
- In regards to bankers, volunteer coordinator now knows new rule only PTO board or FF team running money.

Games:

- Katie Carter, a new 2nd grade parent, was in charge of games. She did more than me with The Fun Ones contract and creating and setting up all games. She would like 2 game assistants next year. She did everything herself.
- The Chick-Fil-A game went well. Cub Scout balloon darts went well. Spirit wear room went well.
- Every game went well except the money grabber. The paper fake money shredded and was unplayable by 7:30.
- Sue Schultz from The Fun Ones says we have the most enthusiasm for our themes! We have feedback for The Fun Ones. We even had an on site representative. The Fun Ones rep left early. She was a young girl.

Food:

- We had a learning curve with new mom, Laura Budde. The food would not have happened without food team: Rebecca Stiner, Renee Culbertson, Tony Herbert & Brian Nallenweg.
- All food went well. We made good profit. Everything sold. We ran out of pizza at 7:20. We had finite preordered amount due to check, not credit. We spent \$780 on food, \$1250 with machines. We made \$2500.
- The gumbo was excellent and pure profit. Special thank you to Amanda Davis and Somya Bergman. Nothing but praise over the gumbo. It was special.
- Ordering from Sam's on AGS account worked very well. However overall cost of food was up due to no gift cards from some grocery stores (Woodman's, Jewel, Target) and ordering everything from Sam's.
- Slushie flavor was terrible – slushie machine did not pay off. (better flavors next year)

Set up:

- Setup was difficult with 4L dinner theater in MPR and due to Louise sweep and buff floor. But Mr. and Mrs. Lucas were most helpful with only handful of 4L parents, Kim Ambrose and Deb Rempert.
- Angel was very helpful and was necessary to have on clock during FF, mostly due to every 20 min a game broke, needed unlock doors, office, etc. I will have to sit down with new building engineer next year. We need a policy on PTO custodian responsibilities. What is the correct method for putting in work request for a PTO event?
- PTO closet is bulging. FF did not break door. Knights and Pirates have been returned. Mrs. Jensen is using the Mardi Gras decorations that are still out for spring musical.

Next Year:

- I am willing to do 1 last fun fair next year as long as all chair positions filled. All committee chairs are returning except Raffles/Classroom Baskets. (8 needed.)

- PTO already owns 6 boxes of Hawaiian décor in PTO closet. I plan to keep decorations neater, more graphic and streamline.
- Suggested to scale back or pare down. FF tends to snowball and difficult to go backwards. So No. Give back to kids – keep all inflatables and food machines.
- March 3rd and 4th 2016. There is concern about families out of town.
- Suggest budget for \$7,000 for 2016. (My inside goal is still \$10,000)

Ways & Means- D.Rempert

- Dine Arounds
 - Chipotle made \$914.22
 - March 26th is the next Dine Around. It's at Bulldog Redhot & North Island Sandwich Shoppe from 10am-8pm and Batavia Creamery from noon-9pm.
- Clothing resale needs volunteers

Principal-J.Wright.

- Kindergarten preview is this Friday, March 13th. We'd like to include some more PTO information about upcoming events such as the next Movie Nite (April 17th), Dine Around (March 26th), and information on Spiritwear.
- New Student Orientation will occur on Monday, August 10th at 6pm. The August Board Meeting will follow at 7pm.
- PAARC testing is going well. According to the teachers, it is doable. It's being treated as baseline data. There have only been a few technical issues.
- Tony Inglese will be the speaker at the General Meeting on April 27th. He'll be discussing concerns about technology and 1:1 ratio. Gator Byte team does not exist anymore.
- We have a parent to represent ECC. Her name is Mrs. Dempsey. She is also an AGS parent. She will be under Classroom Support. She will attend meetings but will not be able to vote.
- F.S. Direct: the teachers will be going to request their school reservation needs in March for the upcoming year. The PTO gets to reserve time in April. Outside organization gets May.
- LRC Redesign: our new fundraising goal is to redesign the LRC. A few people visited Ferson Creek in St. Charles. The LRC was warm and inviting. We will be meeting with Interior for Business. They are said to be good with schools and can get discount and free items. The computer lab on the east side of the LRC will be gone. We'd like to make the LRC more open and inviting with use of color, couches, etc.

Teacher Liaison- D.Nielsen, N.Davis

They are still working on an AGS Teacher Liaison replacement

President-K.Ambrose

- Fundraising vs. Non-Fundraising: we reviewed a list of events/programs and who is in charge of them. We may need to revise in the future.
- New board members: the nominees for the open board positions will be announced to the general membership by April 3rd. The nominees will be voted into office at the next General Meeting, April 27th. The out-going board members and the in-coming members will attend the May meeting as the out-going board duties remain in effect until May 31st.
- Website: Kim is going to discuss more with Charles Napravinik and Andy Mareska for more information and research about redoing the website and possible app.

Round Table Discussion

We discussed the Book Fair and whether we should bring it back to AGS instead of Barnes & Noble. Some feel that the focus on books is lost at Barnes & Noble. All the extra events (teachers reading, choir singing, staff member dressing up as a character) can be done on-site without the influence of toys and food.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dawn Scheck