

Friends of Franklin Meeting Minutes 6/14/11

1. Since March, we've had quite a bit of bad news, BUT we have some good news tonight. Looks like now the class size increases will NOT happen, so Franklin will remain at the same levels as last year:
 - a. 24 K-3
 - b. 36 maximum grades 4 and 5
 - c. We will be receiving 3 semesters of art from the District this year
2. Beyond the Bell (BTB):
 - a. BTB is now on the list of programs to be restored for the coming year. It's not official yet (won't know officially until 6/30 at the latest). More discussion to happen shortly on this issue
3. Library aide: is on the chopping block. It's a union position, so we may not be able to use volunteers in the same way
 - a. Can we do check-in/check-out via the class room? Unknown right now
 - b. We could potentially buy the position for less than \$15,000
4. We are working on a beautification project with LA Works, we will be repainting and fixing up the reading garden and the wall by Room 18
5. Kudos to John and Greg on the pinewood derby
6. Jenny G. toured Melrose Magnet: it's a traditional school that went through the process and became a tech magnet
 - a. Every kid third grade and up has a laptop they take to and from school
 - b. Good inspiration for what we can do as a school
 - c. Kids are taught to how to behave on the net
 - d. Are their API/Test scores up?
 - i. Yes, after a transition period
7. Also looking at an Encino school similar to Franklin whose parent group pays \$50,000/year for a computer tech
8. BTB:
 - a. Aaron (parent) presenting:
 - i. Who uses BTB? Everyone: when you are prepping the school for fundraisers and events, BTB watches your kids
 - ii. Franklin Kids: He supports Franklin kids, but not everyone uses it
 - iii. Encourage everyone to get in touch with Bennet Kaiser, our new School Board rep, and let him know you support BTB
 - iv. 400 schools rely on this for afterschool, as it is a free program
 - v. What Aaron and a group of BTB using parents are asking: a symbolic gesture vote to financially support BTB if the school board decides to defund the program
 - b. Ms. Sasso:
 - i. Aaron was right to bring up afterschool as necessary and right to bring up the need for free aftercare
 - ii. BTB is a permissive program for grades 2-5
 - iii. Currently there are 60-80 kids participating, could be 40-50 on any given day. After about 1 or 1.5 hours, much fewer students on the lower yard
 - iv. There is one adult supervising (can be a challenge to watch all that is going on)
 - v. Activities are unstructured: Kids can choose activities to play sports, games, read, hang out with their friends.
 - vi. The more involved the kids are with sports, the less likely they are to have behavior issues in the lower yard.
 - vii. BTB also has weekend field trips for sports, etc, and Coach Ricardo participates in monthly meetings and training throughout the year for emergencies, etc. Since the offices closes at 4:00 PM, this is important as he is the only one down on the lower yard

- viii. Recently we've had a huge improvement in game participation
- ix. There are challenges handling behavior issues on the yard at times
- x. With the BTB program through the district, the district provides for substitutes in case he's absent.
- xi. As of July 1, 2011, BTB is restructuring
- xii. How much to maintain the program? We've been quoted a little bit over \$13,000, but few issues if LAUSD is not footing the bill:
 - 1. Will the training be continued? Does that cost extra?
 - 2. Will substitutes be provided
- xiii. There have been some issues/complaints on the lower yard that have led to complaints, specifically the behavior and the handling/response to bad behavior
- xiv. There have been parents disciplining children (not their own kids) on the lower yard by addressing the other children's behavior issues. This can be scary for some children.
- xv. There is free state-funded afterschool plus enrichment for schools that are 70% or more Title 1.
- xvi. Based on our much less amount of Title 1 folks, we should be a priority for restoration of BTB because we do not have another free program
- xvii. When BTB comes through the district office, their insurance company (BTB's) will cover accidents, etc. Not sure if this will be the case if we have to purchase directly from BTB—Ms. Sasso has called them with her questions, but there was no official answer to her, as they are going through a restructuring starting July 1.
- xviii. All of this discussion is good for the future, as it looks like BTB program will be added back to the budget by LAUSD
- xix. Question from Aaron: BTB: If LAUSD pays or not, shouldn't it be the same program? Answer: Not necessarily, depends on what BTB offers to schools directly
- c. Open campus idea is important for community and for fundraising. Free childcare is important
- d. Megan (Franklin Kids board)
 - i. Friends of Franklin and Ms. Sasso asked Franklin Kids to get a plan together when they heard that BTB may be cut.
 - ii. Franklin Kids gets money (\$9,000 a year) from Friends of Franklin for scholarships to parents who cannot afford the Franklin Kids programs.
 - a. Scholarship parents give back manning the valet, donating to bake sales, and other volunteering.
 - iii. Molly's goal (Franklin Kids board member) is to make Franklin Kids free before her kids graduate from Franklin
 - iv. The Sand Lot was the Franklin Kids' attempt at recreating the BTB for those that wanted it
 - v. Megan did a head count on the lower yard in the afternoons for the last half of April, and about ½ of the kids in BTB in the later afternoon were Homework Club/FK kids
 - vi. Franklin Kids needs to figure out how to support BTB if Franklin Kids expands/BTB crashes
- e. Free child care for all is important
- f. There seems to be confusion from the April, May meetings—Franklin Kids had done an initial stab; it wasn't their full, final plan. They were asked to present what they were thinking
- g. Marcia: It's the responsibility of the parent to find childcare after school, not the district/school's responsibility
- h. The LAUSD board to today voted on revising the budget to include money to restore the staffing for the BTB program

- i. Aaron: Asking that Friends of Franklin moves to fund \$6,600 for the fall if needed, if the Beyond The Bell program is not funded.
 - i. There will be a meeting in August or July, so we can vote to use these funds if needed in July.
 - ii. The question is what we would get for the \$13,000 if not funded—could we do better?
 - j. Jenny Gomez, promises that if BTB is NOT funded that FOF will hold an emergency meeting this summer to make sure we deal with the funding for after school.
- 9. We need to approve an additional \$500 to cover last of art show expenses. Justine J. moves, Ellen K seconds. 9 Y, 0 N
- 10. Greg and John: Thanks to all for a great job on the Derby. This may move to the fall—October maybe a good fit
- 11. Book fair: December is not a good time, and November is when all the classes use the auditorium to rehearse for the international sing and dance
- 12. Bylaws: we need to update a few of them, and want to see if we should make the treasurer elect the vice president, as we need the VP and the Treasurer to sign checks
- 13. We need a new logo for FOF—Ellen to ask Juliana if she would like to do it
- 14. Website: we need a new webmaster
- 15. Jenni Herrick is stepping down, as her daughter is graduating this year. Big thank you to Jenni Herrick for all the work she and Spook have done for us at Franklin
- 16. Leslie Weinstein is stepping down from the board. Big thanks to her for all her work and dedication to Franklin
- 17. New Board Members:
 - a. Tawny Lucero, for a director
 - i. Ysenia Motions, Ellen seconds
 - ii. Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No—motion passes
 - b. Jasmine Lorenz, for Treasurer-Elect:
 - i. Ellen Motions, Ysenia seconds
 - ii. Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No—motion passes
 - c. Kathleen Salvaty, President-Elect:
 - i. Aniko motions, Ellen seconds
 - ii. Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No—motion passes
 - d. Christian Leffler, for a director:
 - i. Paul motions, Justine seconds
 - ii. Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No—motion passes
- 18. Board handbook/guidelines need to be developed
- 19. Tanya G. is still handling permits
- 20. Need a Roster committee, need FOF members on at least two committees, does not mean FOF members have to chair two committees.