

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee

August 6, 2018

(10-11am) and (6-7pm)

Minutes by John Prats

ATTENDEES

10am – Yvette Kisumbule, Albin Kalonji*, Dominique Nginamau, Nadeige Malubuni, Cedrick Wawa, Marcel Sayila, Pecos C. Kawa, Isaac Kapemb*, Pathy Mboyo, Thaddee Luger, Vicky Nsumbu, John Prats.

6pm – Augustin Kandolo*, Jonas Sibbo, Stanislas Kankolongo, Claude Bizau*, Bernie Kabena, Blaise Mbata, Nacha Nsuka, Lazard Mulata, Bruno Iloo, Arlette Bugera, Placide Belesi*, Yolanda Chavez*, Tanya Kimonga, Toussaint Nzeke*, Fefe Nsuti, Tithy Grace Masevo, Sylvie Mbelu, Dorcas Lufuma, John Prats.

**Denotes BPAC parent committee member*

Meeting Summary

As the first BPAC meeting of the school year, the focus was on important information regarding preparation for the beginning of the school year. BPAC will meet in early September for planning. New and returning parents to the district introduced themselves to each other.

Communication

Skylert communications were explained to new parents. In addition, a test Remind.com text message was sent to both groups during the meetings to identify those parents who still need to be signed up for message alerts in other languages from the family liaison. Several parents signed up for the free Remind.com service.

District Calendar Items

District year-at-a-glance calendars were distributed as the group reviewed notable dates and breaks during the year. Special attention was given to the kickoff open house events at the different schools as a great way to get to know their new school and their teachers.

Registration Items

Attendees were reminded to take care of any incomplete Skyward registrations, encumbrances, physicals for key grades and vaccinations. Parents questions regarding availability of individual student schedules, teacher assignments and transportation were addressed. The family liaison provided a review of Skyward for parents to access much of this information online, as well as how to use the instant translation feature. Due to some attendees not having internet access and limits of online translation, calling in was still encouraged as an option if there were any difficulties accessing information.

School Supplies

Parents were shown where they could obtain school supply lists online and at specified local stores. In addition, the upcoming local opportunity for school supplies at Buffalo Wild Wings with the Galesburg Public Schools Foundation was announced for those who could benefit from this.

Open Topics and Discussion

Several topics were brought up by parents and other committee members during the discussion period.

Transportation - Several parents brought up requests for bus pickup at an apartment complex where a number of students live as well as homes which are in the walking zone of a school, but at a fair distance. The established bus stops were identified and walking zone policy was brought up. The family liaison will communicate their concerns.

Skyward/Internet Access - A concern was brought up by several parents who did not have access to internet due to cost, making it difficult for them and their children to access Skyward and homework. Contact information of a reduced fee internet program available through a local internet provider was provided to those interested. In addition, since access to this program can be complicated when there is a language barrier, one committee member asked if there was a way to facilitate enrollment for this program for those qualified and it was suggested that perhaps parents in BPAC who were familiar with the service, may be able to help. One parent did offer to help qualified individuals sign up for service. As a follow-up to this, it was suggested that the family liaison could work with returning BPAC parents to create a guide to common procedural challenges faced by new families to the district in a variety of areas beyond just internet and how BPAC could assist.

Board Meeting Volunteers

The following parents volunteered to attend the August 13th school board meeting:

Claude Bizau, Yolanda Chavez, Bruno Iloo, Arlette Bugera

Attendees taught each other a phrase in several languages represented at the meetings:

Welcome (English - plural) = Boyeyi Malamu (Lingala) = Soyez les bienvenus (French) = Bienvenidos (Spanish)

Next Meeting:

Morning - 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 4th

Evening - 6:00 P.M on Tuesday, September 4th