

Venice Neighborhood Council  
Education Committee Meeting Summary  
April 13, 2016

**Meeting Summary**

In attendance:

Lalo Marquez for Andrea Castellanos  
Bud Jacobs  
Chantel Hunter-Mah

Joelle Dumas  
Robin Lithgow  
Ruth Seroussi

Zeena Pliska

Absent

Lydia Ponce and Idalia Munoz

Guests

Jody Vanda Rick Selan

Public Comment

- Rick Selan was disappointed that the Education Committee did not have a program around Common Core. He feels it is an important opportunity to inform parents on academic matters.
- Jody Vanda commented on the Big Blue Bus controversy in her community and why she felt the Ocean Avenue route was inappropriate. She had attended the Mike Bonin meeting on the issue.

Old Business

- The group wanted to continue exploring ways to commemorate Earth Day and highlight the school gardens of Venice. Bud Jacobs was asked to contact the Venice principals to see what "Earth Day" activities were taking place and to explore ways to make school gardens accessible to parents and community. Bud will survey the principals and try to get the information to Tracy Coleman to share with schools and parent groups. Coeur d'Alene's program to name the new garden and recognize the efforts of the Green Team of 25 students was mentioned.
- Robin Lithgow reported on the Student Art Program being conducted on five stages in Grand Park downtown this weekend. It will be the largest display of student talent assembled this year. She also noted the Oceanium activities planned for April 23 and 29.

New Business

- Joelle Dumas reported on plans for the WAVE awards from the Venice Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. It will be held on May 12 and will recognize 17 teachers who are "Game Changers" for the future. Tickets can be purchased on the Venice Chamber website or contact Joelle directly.
- The Mandarin program at Broadway was discussed briefly and concern over resident students and Mandarin siblings was explained again. As reported in the March meeting by Mrs. Davis, all Broadway resident students have been accommodated for the 2016-17 school year.

- Zeena Pliska made a legislative update that included a report of increases in the magnet programs, a bill on apprenticeships to support building and contractor professionals as well as increase the number of women in the building trades (Assemblywoman Burke's bill. A Ben Allen bill (SB 933) to train and retain teachers. A bill to support preschool children with disabilities (SB 1071). And a bill (SB916) to award dance and theater teachers single subject credentials.
- Chantel reported on the Westminster "K-roundup" scheduled for April 23 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. She also reported on the Whole Foods Giving Day where 1% of all sales in Venice will go to Westminster. She also attended the "Politics is not for Sissies" program. She also reported on successful school tours that are drawing 30 parents and community members at a time and the school is expected to grow two teacher positions due to the outreach. Hurray for Westminster!!
- Ruth reported on the Carnival to be held at Coeur d'Alene on May 7 and that earth day will be observed on April 22 mid-day. She also cited the extremely successful "jog-a-thon" that raised \$30K for the school.
- Lalo shared BGCV activities and the special "Mother's Day" activities planned for the club. There will be a pancake breakfast and then community members can go to the Coeur d'Alene carnival. The club will also be participating in the May 19 Art Crawl.
- The meeting was dismissed at 7:45 in honor of the memory of Bill Rosendahl.

Next Meeting May 11