

Friday, October 2, 2015  
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes



Board members present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Delora Crawford, Christy Kelley, Patty Logan, Lisa Nickel, Cathryn Linney

BV School District guests: Kristin Asquith  
Parent Attendees: 51

1. Welcome and Updates- Tracy Elford
  - a. SENG Model Parent Group registrations are open and half filled. Classes start next week. Go to the BVPAGE website for registration information.
  - b. The Kansas Gifted Talented Creative (KGTC) conference is being held in Overland Park this October. Past BVPAGE president Lisa Nickel and current BVPAGE president Tracy Elford will be conducting a breakout session for parents on Sunday October 4 to present "Advocating Without Alienating" to conference participants. Information and registration is available at [www.kgtc.org](http://www.kgtc.org).
2. Kristin Asquith: Coordinator of Gifted Education Services for Blue Valley Gifted Education Curriculum and IEPs
  - \* Ms. Asquith's presentation is available on the [www.bvpage.org](http://www.bvpage.org) website.

### **Gifted Education Curriculum**

1. 6 Skill Strands guide gifted curriculum: Critical and Creative thinking, Problem Solving, Research Skills, Technology Skills, Leadership Skills, Social and Emotional Coping Skills
2. Class curriculum and student goals are split in class approximately 50-50 but individual teachers decide division of time: some do 1 day class goal then 1 day individual goal, some do 1 week and 1 week, some split by quarters
3. There are different topics of study for different grade levels and different classes
4. Gifted teachers have a repository of previously used study areas available to them so all schools not necessarily doing same thing
5. Projects or units can be class based, small group based or individually based
6. Elementary gifted class is a pull out class – time and frequency depends on building (some kids meet 4 days a week, some 5)
7. Middle school gifted class meets every other day
8. High school is a class period that students may or may not sign up for
9. Parents did an activity of sample gifted class activities: What is this object? What is this slide? Topic card given for impromptu speech

10. Parents asked questions about units in school, child has done same unit every year in elementary school. Kristin told group that there are lots of topics available. Also that students may be doing same topic (like robotics) but in a different fashion each year (different challenges or tasks harder than previous years)

### **Individual Education Plans**

1. Gifted education is provision of Special Education in Kansas, only 8 other states list gifted this way
2. State says gifted students must be served, but does not specify how to find, define, or serve
3. Gifted education IEP looks different than a special education IEP
4. IEP meeting required once per year, reevaluation occurs every 3 years
5. Parents can request a meeting with any parties at any time to discuss student or status, this does not have to be an "IEP meeting"
6. Document at IEP meeting is a DRAFT and should be final only after meeting modifications made (if any)
7. There are required portions of the document to comply with state laws
8. IEP team consists of: student, parents, general ed teacher, gifted ed teacher, administrator, psychologist/counselor. Twice exceptional students may have a case manager and special education representatives. Different staff members may be present at different grade levels – not all IEP teams will look the same throughout the years.
9. Group discussion was held on the role of the administrator in the IEP meetings. Numerous examples were given of fabulous administrator interactions and ineffective administrator presence. Parents were asked to write comments on index cards to give to Kristin for review as she is preparing for a presentation by the Gifted Education department for Professional Development time for administrators from the district.
10. Additional discussions held about attendance for duration of meeting (some people drop in and leave) and the fact that some schools only invite one general education teacher to meeting and others invite all general ed teachers.
11. Parents are allowed to request a re-schedule of meeting if some/all of these people are not available at time of the IEP meeting.
12. The intent of the IEP meeting is communication, not to read IEP documents verbatim. This also generated a great deal of discussion among the parent attendees.
13. Consent is required from parents for:
  - a. Initial evaluation
  - b. Start of services
  - c. Placement in gifted
  - d. Change in services (25% or greater in time change)
  - e. Change in placement
  - f. Reevaluation
  - g. Ending services

14. Parent consent is NOT required for:
  - a. Goals (student goals listed in IEP)
  - b. Programs or curriculum
  - c. People/Staff (individual names, not roles)
  - d. People attending meetings (individual names, not roles)
15. Twice exceptional students may have additional roles for a larger combined team. Progress reports will look different and IEP documents will look different

**Questions and Answers:**

1. Can IEP meeting be at beginning of school year? It can, but since IEP spans 1 year, you may want to wait to get better idea of what is needed for following school year. In addition, realistically, all IEPs cannot be in first month of school – no way to fit everyone in! Generally done close to anniversary date of initial identification meeting.
2. Do students participate in IEP meetings? Some for part of time, generally yes at middle school and high school levels.
3. Do students like IEP meetings? Some yes others no. For introverts, can be too much attention directed at them.
4. Can kids “opt out” of gifted class in elementary or middle school? This is not wanted or recommended and very rarely occurs. The aim of gifted class is for students to be around other gifted students and to be in a ‘safe place’ to be smart.
5. Do kids have to take gifted class in high school? No, you can still receive services without taking gifted as a class.
6. Can kids be evaluated for gifted identification in middle school? Who starts the process? Yes, kids can be identified at any age or grade level. At the middle school level, a general ed teacher, gifted teacher, counselor, or parent can initiate the process.
7. Are students identified gifted based on their MAP scores? No! Not alone. MAP scores are not used in the formal identification process. Parent comments say that MAP scores can be a catalyst to having a student looked at for gifted identification.
8. Parents can request the start of the gifted identification process at any time or age. However, the school team has the right to start or stop that evaluation process.
9. If student does not qualify for gifted identification, can they be retested? Yes, generally after one year. The school team will generally ask what is a teacher seeing that is different from previous evaluation? What situation is different now to give a different outcome to previous evaluation?
10. Feedback is good for principals on participation of school staff in IEPs. If participation poor, use the chain of command to discuss or request others.
11. Are IEPs really customized? Elements of plans seem exactly same for all students? It is ok for parent to say that goals are too generic. Suggest modifications at the meeting.
12. Don’t discount new staff members/people at IEP meetings, sometimes they have new ideas not heard before.

13. IEP template documents gather information from students, parents, and gen ed teachers. Parents need to do their part!
14. Why would a student not take Gifted class in high school? Sometimes schedule does not permit it. Lots of requirements to fit in and students want to choose electives. Student can still use room and gifted teacher as resources.
15. Do all teachers know that child is identified as gifted? Not necessarily, there is an icon on staff web info pages that indicated presence of IEP. Some teachers may not see what kind of IEP is present. Is ok to (politely) remind them.
16. IEP Goals – parents go into meetings not knowing what to put down for goals. Teachers seem really excited when parent or student has suggestion for goals!

Time ended for this meeting. The November 6<sup>th</sup> BVPAGE meeting is planned to be an open forum and parent panel question and answer session. Tracy Elford asked parents to come back for this meeting and that the meeting will start with a parent discussion of IEP goals. We did not have enough time for parents to relate different goals they have used that others may want to know about.