

BVPAGE Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2012

Board Members: Lisa Nickel, Patty Logan, Ann Ryan, Tracy Elford
District Guests: Kristin Asquith, Mark Schmidt
16 Parent Attendees

1. Lisa Nickel welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Lisa let everyone know that catalogs from Great Potential Press were available for anyone that wanted them. In addition, Kristin Asquith has selected books available for anyone to borrow.
2. Lisa Nickel gave an overview of an email from Overland Trail Middle School principal Phoebe Lewis outlining activities from their last professional development day. Each department summarized what they did and Lisa highlighted some of the gifted issues and updates.
3. Lisa Nickel has received several ideas for future meeting topics and asked that anyone with further ideas email her directly or use the BVPAGE email address. A suggestion was made for a self-advocacy meeting for students to attend.
4. Mark Schmidt and Kristin Asquith reviewed that 'Question 4: What do we do if they already know it? OR learn it quickly?' is a topic that will be addressed with new common core standards and is a district focus this year.
 - a. They are working with gifted teachers on how to work with other adults so interactions with classroom teachers to address needs of gifted students in general education or any/all other classrooms goes smoothly; also sharing what works best and successful strategies from individual buildings; will next be working with building principals to address Q4 issues
 - b. Kristin wanted us to know that she wants gifted ed teacher to be informed of and part of common core class and program development
 - c. Common core to address special needs students' needs in addition to helping gifted ed students
 - d. The DUKE TIP program was briefly discussed and Mark let parents know that there are 4 other similar programs that parents will receive information about in 7th grade letter to high scoring students
5. Lisa Nickel – BVPAGE's evening parent event will be Gifted Education Process and IEP Revealed. It will take place Monday October 29th from 7:00pm – 8:30pm at the Blue Valley West High School Little Theatre (16200 Antioch). The Process will be a general parent session and the IEP sessions will break out based on elementary/middle/high school levels.
6. Patty Logan received information from the KU Engineering Fair coordinator that is promising 'new and improved format' for 2013. The fair will now take place over 2 days with the first, February 21, dedicated solely to middle

school students and the second day, February 22, dedicated to high school and elementary school students.

7. Patty Logan showed several of the Lego robotics kits that BVPAGE is granting to elementary and middle schools. The "Gifted Grants" will be delivered by Patty Logan, Lisa Nickel, and Tracy Elford and will deliver remaining items and checks the week of Oct 8th.

8. Tracy Elford – The first September 18th meet and greet social event was held and 12 attendees visited and had a casual lunch. The second social event is Thursday November 8th at Take Five coffee bar from 8:45 – 10:00.

9. Lisa Nickel – 2 new SENG Model Parent Group starting up with a morning and evening session, the morning session has only 2 openings left and the evening session has several openings. Contact Lana Webster at ljkwebster@gmail.com

10. Lisa Nickel –KGTC conference is this coming weekend and there are 2 Sunday sessions that still need hosts.

11. Tracy Elford – Review of September Curriculum and Instruction advisory board meeting found that Kristin Asquith as district gifted coordinator also sits on the advisory board now as does the district special ed coordinator. In addition, gifted and special ed will be topics of a C&I meeting sometime in the next school year.

12. Jan Connors – Review of Special Ed Advisory Council announced they will be holding a Mini-Special Ed conference on November 13 with various break out session topics

13. Advocating Without Alienating

See Lisa Nickel's power point presentation. The following are comments and recommendations made during the group discussion:

- Parents don't always know chain of command or whom to talk to. Group suggests start with "this" teacher in "this" classroom before talking with anyone else
- Talk to room teachers before principal
- Give teachers a chance to rectify situation, that means time
- Opportunities may have been presented that child may have pass up or turned down
- There is a difference between what teachers are required to do and what they can offer to do
- Parents can push harder options for students or take away option/choice for more difficult or in depth assignments, parents can insist child is given more difficult assignments so child cannot pass them up
- Acknowledge what is being done
- Goals do not have to be tangible; social and emotional goals can be set for

gifted students in IEPs

- Classroom teachers should know that kids are identified gifted, but do not assume this is true. Politely mention.
- Teachers may NOT know if child has skipped a grade, inform them at right time and place early in the school year
- What is a reasonable expectation for classroom teacher? What is fair? With so many kids in a classroom what can a teacher do? Group suggested acknowledging class size and frankly asking teacher
- There are things that can be done at home to enrich child's education
- Habits form early, being able to set study and homework habits is easier with challenging projects
- Organization is a learned habit, even for gifted students
- "Differentiation" may be done concurrently with other classroom students, gifted student will not be in a class by themselves
- Not about "harder" but "faster pace" for subjects, use of more descriptive words may help all understand need
- "We" gets better attitude than "you"
- What do classroom teachers know about gifted kids? About what they need?
- Parents can request team of teachers for conferences so all know and can be collaborative for student (time constraint at schools is an issue though)
- Parent/Teacher conferences are NOT IEP meetings
- Be open for solutions you didn't previously know about
- Administration (principals, vp's, counselors) can know about opportunities for your child that you never considered
- There is a point where a parent needs to step in to advocate for their child, but child needs to learn appropriate way to advocate for self
- Parents can 'role play' with students to practice a discussion with teacher(s)
- Add teachers/administrators as Mr. , Ms., or Mrs. when referring to them in front of students
- Parents need to model respectful interactions with teachers and language should reflect all as a 'team'
- What word to use instead of 'bored' ?? Group advised to ask kid to describe – is it Topic? Pace? Repetition?