

Friday, February 6, 2015  
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Delora Crawford, Christy Kelley, Cathryn Linney, Patty Logan, Lisa Nickel, Karen Jordan, Lana Webster & Leslie Johnson

BV School District guests: Kristin Asquith, Mark Schmidt

Attendees: 33

1. Welcome and Introductions—Tracy Elford
  - a. The pictures scrolling on the screen are from the robotics training for teachers/parents and also from our summer opportunities fair.
  - b. Attendees introduced themselves around the room.
  
2. Legislative Update—Patty Logan & Dave Coleman
  - a. LOB passed
  - b. There is a Board of Education election in April. Everyone in the district votes for every seat. 4 board members are up for election: 1 new uncontested, 1 existing uncontested, and 2 contested candidates.
  - c. The Blue Valley School District has a 1.3 million budget shortfall for the current year (ending June 30). Because state revenues are less than expected, the Governor made K-12 education cuts from the operating budget.
  - d. Advice for contacting legislators is posted on the BVPAGE website.
  - e. As reported last month, the BVSD receives approx. \$27,500 per special education teacher (includes gifted ed. Teachers). The school district administration opposes any current legislation that would remove gifted education from special education services.
  
3. President's Report—Tracy Elford
  - a. Index cards are on the tables for questions that come up during the meeting. Attendees are encouraged to write down thoughts and questions and provide name and email address. Someone from the BVPAGE board will respond.
  - b. There has been an overwhelming positive response to Kristin Asquith's presentation on Supporting Student's Organization at our January 2015 meeting. Her power point presentation and a one-page resource flyer have been posted to the BVPAGE website under Meeting Power Points and Handouts.
  - c. 2015 Summer Robotics Camp registration is open! There are 4 weeks of camps to choose from including a "new" EV3 camp (grades 4-7) for girls only. The dates/times on the back of the agenda are incorrect but the separate handout has accurate information on courses, dates, and times.
  - d. BVPAGE's recent Summer Opportunities Fair had the highest attendance ever-- approximately 230 people.
  - e. BVPAGE past president, Lisa Nickel, wrote and compiled a presentation called Advocating without Alienating (which can be found on the BVPAGE website). This presentation has been shown within the district multiple times and BVPAGE has now received a request for the presentation to be given to a Shawnee Mission parent group on February 17, 2015 at 7pm at the Jo Co Central Library. Any interested BVPAGE member who would like to hear the presentation is invited to the meeting. KGTC (The Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented, and Creative) has also asked for BVPAGE to present the same presentation at their upcoming annual conference.

- f. BVPAGE has been contacted by teachers in Salina, KS about how to start a parents of gifted children group.
- g. PISA. Randomly selected BV students recently took the PISA test. Tracy passed around a sample test.
- h. BVPAGE is giving away 15 books, *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children* by James Webb, to gifted classrooms. An email will be going out soon to gifted teachers offering the book for their classrooms. Parents may borrow the book from their gifted teacher.
- i. Spark-KC.com is offering extracurricular afterschool robotics for 10 weeks this spring (March-May) at CAPS. Registration has started.
- j. Next BVPAGE meeting is March 6, 2015.

#### 4. SENG Model Parent Groups—Lana Webster

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) is an eight-session guided discussion group with two facilitators. BVPAGE has been offering this support twice a year for six years. The group reads and discusses the book, *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children* by James Webb. A handout was distributed with information on the next session which runs March 26-May 14 on Thursdays from 9:30am-11:00am. To register, email Lana Webster at [ljkwebster@gmail.com](mailto:ljkwebster@gmail.com) with name and phone number. Registration deadline is March 23.

Today's meeting will be open-forum discussion speaking about what is in our hearts and minds regarding the social and emotional needs of our children.

Comments from parents included:

- a) Regarding perfectionism in a child—if they cannot be perfect, they don't even try
- b) Some kids delay starting a project to give them an out because they cannot make it perfect. "I didn't put forth my best effort because I didn't have enough time"
- c) Let kids fail & take the consequences.
- d) My daughter wants to do only the minimum of what the teacher expects to receive an A. They are working the system.
- e) Replace saying to your child "Wow, what a great grade" with "I am so proud of your effort". This way a child will feel less pressure internally.
- f) Grades do matter in high school. They have to manage choices, and they need to figure out who they are.
- g) Protect happiness and passion and enjoying what you study.
- h) Kids will shut down and back off when parents nag. They need to get there (decisions) on their own. Your relationship with your child should come first.
- i) Talk to your kids. Let them know you are supporting them. Ask questions about their assignments. How do you feel about that grade? What would you do differently next time?

#### 5. Upcoming Enrollment—Tracy Elford

Enrollment for middle school and high school is going on now. Students in general will be told by counselors and teachers to 'not sign up for all the hard/advanced classes'—this is not generally true for gifted students. Gifted students should speak with a gifted teacher for recommendations.