

Friday, December 5, 2014
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Delora Crawford, Christy Kelley, Patty Logan, Lisa Nickel, & Leslie Johnson

BV School District guests: Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Barb McAleer, Kristin Asquith

Attendees: 28

1. Welcome and Introductions—Tracy Elford
2. President's Report—Tracy Elford
 - a. Last day to register to vote is December 28 in order to vote on Local Option Budget mailed ballot
 - b. Tracy followed up on a question from our last meeting (via postcard left on the table) regarding CAPS fees. CAPS courses have no registration fees but some courses may have a \$30-\$40 materials fee.
 - c. With proceeds from our summer robotics camps, BVPAGE will be providing free Robotics training for teachers on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at Blue Valley Middle School. **Registration is required. If openings remain as of Jan. 5, 2015, they will be offered to parents interested in helping with their schools' robotics activities; the cost to parents will be \$15.** Handout attached to the meeting agenda. Contact person, Patty Logan patty.d.logan@gmail.com
 - d. The next Robotics Share Fair will be on April 24th, 2015. This will be Patty Logan's last year chairing this event. BVPAGE is seeking a person to work alongside Patty this year to help with paperwork and learn the process of putting on this one-day event.
 - e. Next BVPAGE meeting is January 9, 2015. Kristin Asquith, Coordinator of Gifted Services, will make a presentation on Organizational Interventions for students.
3. Programs Report—Delora Crawford

The Summer Opportunities Fair will be February 3, 2015 from 7pm-8:30pm in the High Plains Room. **If anyone has suggestions of organizations/programs to have a booth at the fair, please forward the name of the school/program to Delora at alddc90@gmail.com**
4. Math Acceleration—Barb McAleer

Over the past several years, the district has worked hard to make improvements in the math acceleration process. The protocol for Math Acceleration is found in the attached Power Point. Some issues related to the math acceleration process that parents may want to consider include:

 - a. The testing process can be lengthy
 - b. The school day could potentially start earlier (i.e. a 5th grade student taking a 6th grade math class at the middle school)
 - c. A student's daily schedule may vary (i.e. an accelerated elementary student might have to go to specials with older kids)
 - d. Any course taken in the high school building will go on a student's transcript (i.e. the grade of an 8th grade student taking honors geometry at the HS will show on his/her transcript)
 - e. Math accelerated kids will take all honors classes.
 - f. Consider the social, emotional and logistical issues. How well does a student "advocate for themselves".

5. Whole Grade Acceleration—Dr. Tonya Merrigan

Whole grade acceleration is a general education decision, made for the purpose of providing an appropriate level of academic challenge. The protocol for Whole Grade Acceleration is found in the attached Power Point. Less than 10 students are whole grade accelerated in the BVSD each year.

6. Open Forum for Questions—Parents who have had a child whole grade or math accelerated spoke of their personal experiences and answered questions from the audience:

- a. Acceleration is not the right answer for everyone
- b. Knowing your child is the key to making the right decision
- c. Skipping an entire year of school (whole grade acceleration) means your child will be leaving for college one year earlier than normal
- d. Teachers in upper grades do not necessarily know your child has been accelerated
- e. Parents/students need to consider the social aspects of being a year younger: may not be a big deal in 4th grade but could be in high school and college
- f. Parents and administrators are consistent in advising that an accelerated sibling NOT be in the same grade as a brother/sister
- g. Why has there been no follow up with parents or students who have accelerated?