

BVPAGE Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2012

Board Members: Lisa Nickel, Patty Logan, Tracy Elford, Ann Ryan  
District Guests: Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Dr. Mark Schmidt  
17 Parent Attendees

1. Lisa Nickel welcomed everyone and told them that our guest for the meeting will be Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Blue Valley School District.
1. Dr. Merrigan: See .pdf file titled Merrigan Handout 12-7-12
2. In addition to the information on Dr. Merrigan's handout, the following was discussed:
  - a. The common core English programs are being implemented for the 2012-2013 school year at the elementary schools
  - b. b. Math in the middle schools is/will be changing as follows: 6th grade math will encompass all 6th grade CC standards + 25% of the 7th grade standards, 7th grade math will contain the remaining 75% of CC standards and 25% of the 8th grade standards, 8th grade math will contain the remaining CC standards and algebra
  - c. c. Former DCT term (District Coordinating Team) is now being referred to as ESST (Education Services Support Team)
  - d. Goal for Common Core standards to be fully implemented is 2014-2015 school year
  - e. Current Middle and High school English pilots are testing Pearson reading series and Holt reading series (Holt is current series)
  - f. Current Elementary school class pilots are testing math programs Everyday Math, Envision, and Expression.
2. Mark Schmidt reported that there is more collaboration going on between gifted and general education teachers. They are seeing more activity in regards to information requests and information sharing.
3. Lisa Nickel reported that some parents are hearing and seeing more rigor in course work and homework from middle school students.
4. An evening program is in the works geared at Middle School students to help prepare them and their parents for high school. The plan is for a question and answer panel with high school gifted students, a school counselor, a gifted teacher among others. The group seemed very interested in this topic and format.
5. The Summer Opportunity Fair offers information on summer classes and programs. We have had a number of vendors every year and

BVPAGE is asking anyone with suggestions for new vendors to email them to Jennifer Boutte at [tjboutte@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjboutte@sbcglobal.net)

6. Lisa let the group know of a new project in the works from a parent. She is putting together a Literature Open Mike Night at Take 5 coffee house. More information and details to follow!
3. Mission Statement: BVPAGE (Blue Valley Parent Advocates for Gifted Education) advocates to enhance services for all Blue Valley School District gifted students and provides information and support for their parents.
7. Patty Logan reported that the district wide Robotics Share Fair will be held Friday April 26 th at the CAPS building lobby. The elementary schools bring their 5th graders and their robotics creations to show and exhibit. We will need volunteers to help at the day time event. She will email information and volunteer positions after winter break.
8. Patty Logan told all that BVPAGE Summer Robotics Camp will offer 2 sessions daily for 3 weeks starting June 10th, 17th, and 21st. At this time we do not know which sessions will be Rookie NXT, Veteran NXT , or WeDo classes. All classes will be held at Pleasant Ridge Middle School. We will need a small committee to help with registration and fee collection, and check in and pick up of students during the sessions.
9. A question was asked if there was interest in putting together a "Game Day" for elementary students giving them a place/time to come and play board games with other students and for social time for parents. The parents attending thought this was an idea worth pursuing.
10. BVPAGE is looking for someone to take over the duties of treasurer. Our current treasurer, Sally Retz, will be leaving the group as her last student graduates. As we are not a non-profit or charitable group, these duties encompass depositing summer registration funds, paying for grant purchases, and repaying out of pocket expenses for board members. Anyone interested in more information may contact Lisa Nickel at [LisaNickel@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaNickel@yahoo.com)
11. Lana Webster reported that the current session of SENG model parent groups just ended. The next sessions will start most likely after spring break in 2013.
12. Jan Connors – Review of Special Ed Advisory Council announced the Mini-Special Ed conference on November 13 was a success with 73 attendees. They are planning to continue the conference next year.
13. Tracy Elford – Review of November Curriculum and Instruction

advisory board meeting had two points of interest for the group:

- a. A review of the middle school math curriculum had already been presented by Dr. Merrigan earlier in the meeting, and
- b. b. A review of the new LEAD21 reading series for the elementary schools. Tracy was very excited as to how the program can affect gifted students in that the program includes a differentiated reading series consisting of 4 different level readers and break out groups. Group projects are also part of the series in that a complete project will contain answers that can only be provided by each level reader. Elementary parents who children currently use the program had positive things to report.

Our next meeting will be held Friday January 11, 2013 (this is the 2 nd Friday of the month).

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