

BVPAGE Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2012

Board Members: Lisa Nickel, Patty Logan, Tracy Elford
District Guests: Kristin Asquith, Coordinator Gifted Services
15 Parent Attendees

1. Lisa Nickel reported that BVPAGE has approximately \$3,000 in our checking account with the funds coming from the Summer Camp proceeds. The amount is more than we usually keep on hand as we will have additional expenses this year (insurance) that we have not had before.
2. Our current treasurer, Sally Retz, is ready to step down from her position after this school year. She would like an assistant treasurer to start learning the duties and take over for her.
3. The BVPAGE website (www.bvpage.org) has been updated by Andrea Gerry and there is a variety of new information available and photographs of all the grant deliveries.
4. One of the parents asked the group how often their elementary students spend in the gifted education classroom. Parents reported different time increments per day and different schedules per week. Kristin Asquith confirmed that each building makes their own decision based on class scheduling in that building. Any concerns should be brought to the principal and/or gifted teacher.
5. Kristin Asquith reported that the BVAGE parent panel meeting on Monday October 29th was attended by 30 parents and covered gifted identification, gifted process, and IEP information. Lots of questions were asked and answered by the group and though the numbers were smaller than past years, all felt that parents had more personalized questions answered. Parents who attended the evening meeting felt the information was valuable and presented well.
6. Lisa Nickel reported that many parents are hearing more from the higher administrative levels about gifted students needing challenge all day and in all classes.
7. Kristin Asquith reported that the gifted teachers are in the process of developing access to other/additional curriculum and projects that gifted teachers can pass on to general education teachers. They are trying and planning their inroads to be via good communication and good collaborative efforts by giving the teachers access to resources for gifted students.

8. Patty Logan gave a Summer Camp overview of developments. The BVPAGE board has opted to continue with Summer Robotics by offering 2 sessions daily for 3 weeks starting June 10th, 17th, and 21st. BVPAGE does not want to go into the 'camp business' but to serve our members, the board discussed that we could collaborate with Blue Valley and JCCC to help identify topics of special interest to the gifted community. The group suggested the following:
- a. Writing Classes – writing, illustrating books
 - b. Bioscience – genetics, DNA study
 - c. Engineering – hands on and building, building machines, girls only engineering
 - d. Art
 - e. Music
 - f. Outdoor education and/or nature labs
 - g. Crime Scene Investigation – fingerprinting and evidence
 - h. SMART – Science, Math and Art
 - i. Theatre – makeup, costumes, hair styling
 - j. Math – fun and real life applications
 - k. High School extra-curricular clubs – ½ to 1 day presentation of what is available at high schools, a 'what's available at high school' session

Any additional suggestions can be emailed to Patty Logan at patty.d.logan@gmail.com

9. Tracy Elford –The second social event is Thursday November 8th at Take Five coffee bar from 8:45 – 10:00. All are welcome.
10. Lisa Nickel informed the group that our last meeting discussion topic Advocating Without Alienating has received positive feedback from many district sources. Lisa's powerpoint presentation, showing our survey results, has been shown to many different district personnel. It, along with our group discussion points, is located on the bvpage.org website.
11. Lana Webster reported that the current session of SENG model parent groups has 25 attendees in the morning session and 12 attendees in the evening session. The next sessions will start most likely after spring break in 2013.
12. Lana Webster led the group in a discussion topic regarding the Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Students. The following are comments, concerns, discussion points:
- a. Motivation – gifted students tend to fall into 2 groups: 1 – those who always strive to do well and 2 – those who if they can't do well, will stop trying
 - b. How to motivate students if work is too easy
 - c. Is there a responsibility to take advantage of opportunities

- d. Paralyzed by perfection – if student can't do well then they don't know what to do, some shut down
- e. Difference between effort and success
- f. Asking questions can make gifted kids feel others will see them as ;'dumb', that they have role to fill as the 'smart one'
- g. See procrastination and 'laziness' in gifted kids
- h. Communication from parents is extremely important
- i. Praise the effort and it is ok for them to get a lesser grade and to fail
- j. Grades and kids are different – some don't care about grades some care only about grades, finding the balance can be difficult
- k. Pay for grades? Some parents do and some parents don't. Some use for motivation and 'pay for performance', some students don't care about money or don't care to earn it that way
- l. Finding what motivates individual child can take time and trials
- m. Does 'no effort' in school work carry over in kid's attitudes to other subjects/activities? You can't show up at sports activity and expect to be good
- n. Parent reaction greatly affects kid's actions and changing their behavior

13. Jan Conners – 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

14. Tracy Elford – Review of October Curriculum and Instruction advisory board meeting had three points of interest for the group:

- a. A review of the ACT Trilogy of tests given in 7th, 9th and 11th grades and how the data is used,
- b. A name change in high school from Communication Arts (CA) to English Language Arts (ELA) will begin next year and will trickle down to the middle and elementary schools,
- c. There is a new director at the district Wilderness Science Center and they are looking for suggestions on how to better utilize the area.

Our next meeting will be held Friday December 7, 2012.