

Friday, November 7, 2014
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

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

BV School District guests: Mark Schmidt, Chad Ralston

Attendees: 54

1. Welcome and Introductions—President, Tracy Elford welcomed everyone & opened the meeting. Index cards located on the tables are for questions that come up during the meeting. Attendees were encouraged to write down thoughts and questions. If you provide an email address, a BVPAGE board member will respond and answers will also be posted on the BVPAGE website.

2. President's Report—Tracy Elford

- a. Answers to questions submitted on postcards at the Oct 3rd meeting (topic-Johnson County Library Resources) are posted on the BVPAGE website under BVPAGE Program Handouts/BVPAGE Meeting Power Points.
- b. Answers to questions submitted at the Oct 15th evening meeting (Grade Level Q & A Sessions) are posted on the BVPAGE website under BVPAGE Program Handouts/Navigating Gifted Education in Blue Valley.
- c. BVPAGE does not have a list of all gifted students in the Blue Valley school district, thus the power of communication is an important tool is disseminating information. Family members (including those outside the district) are encouraged to contact any board member to ask questions or pass along opportunities that may be beneficial for high ability students.
- 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 December 5. Speakers are Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Executive Director Curriculum & Instruction to discuss whole grade acceleration and Barb McAleer, District Coordinating Teacher-Mathematics to discuss math acceleration.

3. Local Option Budget (LOB) election—Mark Schmidt, Executive Director of Student Services

In January 2015, there will be a Local Option Budget Election. A LOB election is a way for school district residents to supplement the school district's budget. No additional funds are being sought in this election—residents will be asked to maintain the current funding already in place. Approx. \$3 million dollars in funding will be lost if the vote does not pass. A short informational power point was shown.

Watch for more information coming via emails from the BVSD. Be registered and vote! Ballots will come in the mail in early January. More information can be found at bluevalleyk12.org/LOB

4. CAPS (Center for Advanced Professional Studies)--Chad Ralston, Director of CAPS

The Blue Valley CAPS program (BVCAPS.org) was the first of its kind in the US. It is a program for HS juniors and seniors which takes students out of a typical school environment and immerses them in an environment of a first high-skill and high-demand career. The program uses certified, licensed instructors & mentors who come to CAPS to work with students on projects. Students also go out to experience doing hands-on work. Professionalism is a very important aspect of CAPS—where students become even better in college and more successful in their 1st careers. 1st session is 7:30am-10am (then students leave to attend their high school for 4 more classes). 2nd session is 12:20-2:50pm with different students. Both high school and college credit may be earned. Mr. Ralston answered many questions from attendees:

- a. Knowledge of CAPS is important when student and parents begin formulating their 4-year plan.
- b. CAPS has an application process, but no GPA requirements
- c. Strands are determined based on high skill, high demand careers in our area
- d. Culture is different in CAPS (adult professional environment, interest level is higher, dress is more professional, and demeanor is different)
- e. CAPS typically replaces elective courses in a student's day.
- f. Students provide their own transportation to/from CAPS.
- g. CAPS offers younger students (middle school) opportunities via summer camps.