

BVPAGE Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2013

Board Members: Lisa Nickel, Patty Logan, Tracy Elford, Ann Ryan
District Guests: Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Barb McAleer, Dr. Mark Schmidt, Kristin Asquith,
24 Parent Attendees

1. Parent and previous Blue Valley teacher Denise Vrana informed the group of a new activity called Words Bubble Up that will allow students K – 12 an 'open mike' forum to read their own written works (poems, stories, skits, etc.). Currently 2 sessions are scheduled at the Take 5 coffee bar on Monday February 4th and Monday February 11th. Please contact Denise at bubblingsoul@gmail.com for more information or to reserve a time slot

2. Mark Schmidt reported that there is more collaboration going on between gifted and general education teachers. The attempt is to get more rigor in the gen ed classrooms and not just in the gifted classroom. Schmidt expressed concern that this effort is not being relayed down to the parent level and wonders if the students themselves are aware of the efforts. They have been talking with building principals about the new focus and how to be implement it best. A discussion followed regarding communications with parents, teacher newsletters, and principals' emails.

3. Dr. Merrigan and Barb McAleer discussed both grade acceleration and math acceleration

a. Several parents were not aware of the option of whole grade acceleration (skipping a grade) or math acceleration (skipping one grade in math class only)

b. The whole grade acceleration process should start with a building principal

c. Math acceleration generally takes place in grades 3 – 8 and starts with testing in the home school and then continues with centralized testing that may take place at other buildings.

d. The switch to common core standards next year will have a great impact in the near future on acceleration issues as accelerations tests will have to be rewritten to reflect new materials and the grade levels in which they appear.

e. There is a resource for teachers, a designated math coordinator, at each school who is responsible for math acceleration (also referred to as a math coach)

f. There is no protocol for accelerating in other subjects (such as reading or communication) but those requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

g. Several parents commented that the acceleration issue seems to be a culture issue at individual schools in regards to whom does and does not accelerate and even whom is told of the option

Please email any acceleration questions to Lisa Nickel at

LisaNickel@yahoo.com and they will be sent on to either Dr. Merrigan or Ms. McAleer

4. Tuesday February 5th is the Summer Opportunity Fair which will be held at Prairie Star Middle School from 7:00 – 8:30 and will be conducted as an open house event.

5. Lana Webster reported that a new SENG Model Parent group will be held on Tuesday mornings from March 26 – May 14.

6. Patty Logan reported that the district wide Robotics Share Fair will be held Friday April 26th 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 starting at 1:00pm.

7. Patty Logan told all that BVPAGE Summer Robotics Camp will offer 2 sessions daily for 3 weeks starting June 10th (WeDo & Power Puzzles), 17th (Simple and Motorized Mechanisms & Nano Quest Camp), and 21st (WeDo & Body Forward). Registration should start the week of February 4th and the information flyer will go up on the WWW. BVPAGE.ORG website. We will need parent help at the camp sessions with student check in and pick up.

8. Tracy Elford reported that the Curriculum & Instruction meeting discussed the Middle School Experience and that Barb McAleer was a presenter about the middle school math program.

9. Jan Conners reported that the Special Ed Advisory group will be holding a Summer Opportunity Fair on March 5th.

Our next meeting will be held Friday March 1, 2013

Other board notes: Alicia Jeffcoat has agreed to take on the position of Membership Chair.

Lisa Johnston has agreed to take on the position of Treasurer. A transition period will be worked out and when the transition is made, the group will be notified.