

Friday, March 6, 2015  
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

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

BV School District guests: Kristin Asquith

Attendees: 21

1. Welcome—Tracy Elford

Today's speaker, Joan Robbins, Director of Special Education, is ill. Speaking in her place will be Kristin Asquith, Coordinator of Gifted Education, who co-collaborated on forming the presentation. The power point from today's presentation is located on the BVPAGE website

2. Twice Exceptional Students—Kristin Asquith

- Twice-exceptional: In order to be identified as twice-exceptional in Blue Valley, a student must have been evaluated for both giftedness and a disability (examples are ADHD, emotional disturbances, autism spectrum, speech-language disorders). Twice-exceptional does not mean a student who has two disabilities. Approx. 4% of BV students district wide are identified as twice-exceptional. Approx. 2% of identified gifted students are twice-exceptional.
- Special Ed evaluation process: The evaluation process answers to two key questions: 1) Does the student have an exceptionality? 2) Does the student have a need for services beyond what can be offered in the general ed classroom? With those questions in mind, not all students who have a diagnosed disability will qualify for special education services.
- What does the district need to do to help this child? General Ed interventions, possible assessments, & problem solving team collaboration (psychologist, sped teacher, gifted teacher, counselor, administrator). The big question is what is the need stemming from the disability?
- What do the students need? The teams need to communicate. Professional development days aid in communication between teachers and schools. Parents should not be afraid of a big meeting especially during transition years 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 504 Plan: Disabilities may be accommodated with a 504 Plan (rather than a Disability IEP) in addition to the Gifted Education IEP. This plan requires less formality but an evaluation is always required prior to determining the need for a 504 Plan and the plan is reviewed each year. Parents are part of the evaluation team. When parents contact the school in writing, the school has 15 days to respond.

3. President's Report—Tracy Elford

- 2015 Summer Robotics Camp registration is open! There are 4 weeks of camps to choose from including a "new" EV3 camp (grades 4-7) for girls only. All camps have openings. Go to [www.BVPAGE.org](http://www.BVPAGE.org).
- SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted) still has openings for the March 26-May 14 session. This eight-session guided discussion group reads and discusses the book, A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children by James Webb. To register, email Lana Webster at [ljkwebster@gmail.com](mailto:ljkwebster@gmail.com) with name and phone number. Registration deadline is March 23.
- BVPAGE 2015 classroom grants: Some teachers are 'banking' their money for a year to purchase a more expensive item. As of February 2015, teachers have spent \$2,849.55 for various items. Details of purchases are on the back of today's agenda.

- BVPAGE donated approx. 19 books, A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children by James Webb, to gifted classrooms. Parents may borrow the book from their gifted teacher.
- Next BVPAGE meeting is April 3, 2015. Speaker is Lisa Wilson, Director of Assessment and Research

4. Legislative Update—Patty Logan

Please refer to the attached handout for the legislative update.

5. Open Forum discussion