

Friday, May 1, 2015

BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Delora Crawford, Cathryn Linney, Patty Logan

BV School District guests: Kristin Asquith

Parent Attendees: 4

1. BVPAGE's evening held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm had 49 attendees. Doing a "Best of" meeting in the spring with 2 previously presented topics was a hit with parents and easy for the President to organize.
2. Pictures were shown of the District Robotics Share Fair held the previous week at the CAPS building. 8x10 pictures of the elementary school kids with their robots will be given to each of the attendees along with a letter introducing BVPAGE to their parents.
3. SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) parent group is currently underway with 15 attendees.
4. Tracy introduced Heidi Mann to the group. Heidi has agreed to join the board as Website and Social Media Liaison and will work to set up a Facebook page and a twitter account on behalf of BVPAGE. Website re-design will not take place until BVPAGE is told if our current website info will be ported to the new platform or if we will have to re-create from scratch. We may be a year out on the new website format and platform.
5. Jan Conners is attending her last BVPAGE meeting as Special Education liaison as she has a graduating senior. Tracie Howell has agreed to become our SPED liaison for the future.
6. 2015 Summer Robotics Camp registration is ongoing. Openings are still available. Go to [www.BVPAGE.org](http://www.BVPAGE.org).
7. Lisa Johnston gave a financial overview of BVPAGE income and expenditures for 2014. We are not a PTO or a non-profit and we want to ensure that our financial dealings are transparent to all. Our income is from Robotics Camps proceeds and several family donations. Our payments include: robotics teacher payments, gifted classroom grant money, BVEF table donation, printing costs, janitorial costs for facilities, and administrative costs.
8. SMPG facilitator training will be offered at the KGTC conference held in Overland Park this fall. BVPAGE had discussed holding facilitator training but finds the cost to be prohibitive. Discussion was held about the suggestion for BVPAGE to offset the cost of the training (which is around \$250) for individuals in exchange for them providing a certain number of SMPG sessions through BVPAGE.
9. A list of Recommendations was given by group members for activities and resources that have either been taken, read, used or experienced by the attendees. See the 2015-05-01 Recommendations document for a full listing.
10. The meeting attendees were asked which meetings of the past year were the most helpful or valuable and also asked what topics they would like to hear in the coming year:
  - a. Johnson County Library online topic was the most surprising and powerful resource to several members. This topic was suggested for an evening session for parents next year.
  - b. Suggestion was made to have Dr. Tonya Merrigan back to talk about the school district and gifted education or to review math/reading/gifted and then be available for open forum questions from gifted parents.
  - c. High School Opportunities!! This was a topic of interest to many! What is difference between College Now, AP classes, Honors classes, CAPS, etc. How should a parent of a GIFTED student look at schedules and course load.
  - d. Meeting topic on IEPs – what exactly does it provide, examples of goals, example of non-course goals (social visits or interactions, perfectionism, etc.), scheduling during the year, meeting requests must be

responded to within 15 days, etc. Kristin Asquith said she could provide the information and discussion for this topic.

- e. Emotional Intensity – this would be a good Mini-SENG session topic to show what SENNG groups are like before sign up for fall session
- f. A suggestion was made that since so many parents brought their children to the April night meeting, that we could organize an event (fun or informational) for the students while the parents are at the BVPAGE night meeting.
- g. When Lisa Wilson, Director of Research and Assessment, came to speak; there was a request for more statistical information, charts, numbers to back up ‘Blue Valley is a good district.’
- h. Gifted Curriculum: What is it? What are the units? How much time do classes spend on this? Are all gifted classes doing same topics? What are other classes and other students doing?
- i. Several parents said they appreciated the Acceleration information and think it bears repeating every few years
- j. A BVPAGE parent has talked about setting up a casual social group for parents of Twice Exceptional children since they fit both into Special Ed and Gifted, even if kids are not identified.
- k. What were kid’s favorite activities in gifted class? Rube Goldberg machines, marble runs, newspaper writing, simulations, hearing other students’ reports on self-selected topics, etc.
- l. Naviance, definitely a repeat requested! Also suggested for night time event
- m. Getting Gifted Students ready for middle school and high school. Is there something beyond official ‘transition nights’ that we should consider?