

Friday, May 6, 2016
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Amy Gallentine, Patty Logan, Heidi Mann, Cecilia Davis-Fletcher, Delora Crawford

BV School District Guests: Kristin Asquith
Attendees: 6

- I. Welcome – Tracy Elford
 - a. Best of BV Page meeting overview
 - b. Robotics Share Fair – big success
 - i. Each child received a picture with his/her robot, with introduction to BVPAGE
 - c. BVPAGE 2015-16 Review – see attachment
 - d. BVPAGE 2016-17 Planning – see attachment
 - i. Acceleration survey discussion
 1. BVPAGE gets numerous and repeat requests for information regarding acceleration; both whole grade and math. We are considering doing a survey to poll students and parents who have been accelerated to gather information first hand.
 - a. Sometimes acceleration (either grade or math only) is only and best choice
 - b. Can cause lots of attention to student
 - c. There are instances of student being only math accelerated in their class
 - d. Can provide additional opportunities for students for AP and Honors classes which and increase GPA and class rank
 - e. Without acceleration are students learning to succeed without trying? Acceleration may provide challenge that is needed.
 - f. By the time they get to college, what does it really mean?
 - g. Realize the amount of time student is not with kids of same age
 - h. Be aware of what age your child will be when going to high school and college – he/she could be a minor when entering college
 - i. Personality affects whether student will work hard in accelerated class(es) or coast
 - j. Does grade skipping give kid the idea that he/she is better than others?
 - k. Acceleration has helped with self-esteem; student sees they are good at something
 - l. Can make transition periods easier as student already knows those kids and how things work
 - m. Math acceleration can add an hour to the school day (elementary math acceleration kids go one hour early to middle school)

- n. Is acceleration in an area they enjoy? Is the challenge welcome? If they don't like the subject this could cause strife, otherwise this is a great fit
- o. What is missed in science, social studies, English, etc. in years? Students are responsible for that material
- p. What are kids missing for math acceleration? Could they be missing academic subject they are knowledgeable about or are they missing recess and lunch with friends?
- q. Skipping full grades earlier is better
- r. Will this put them with a peer group they understand and who understands them? This can be the first time a student feels he is with a group where he/she belongs
- s. Students find a new peer group within their new grade/class
- t. Per Kristin Asquith, research does not substantiate that social/emotional is as big of an issue as parents fear.
- u. When kids remain in a level too low for them, they can learn that there is no need for hard work or to engage. This sets a negative precedent for future years.
- v. Multiple skipping of math (whether math alone or in combination of grade acceleration) will/may cause student to run out of math classes by senior year
- w. Acceleration is part of general education, not gifted education
- x. Acceleration possible for any discipline, although math is most common
- y. Would this information be of benefit for our parents? Answer: YES

2. Meeting Format and Topic Ideas for 2016-17

- a. Like the current format of once per month, daytime meetings
- b. Love the guest speakers
- c. Meetings provide resources that are hard for parents to find on their own
- d. Open discussions can be as valuable as "expert" speakers
- e. Mini-SENG sessions (emotional/social interactions)
- f. Suggestion for an introduction to SENG night, have group read one chapter and discuss it
- g. Suggestion for meetings to select topic from Dr. Webb's book and discuss as a group
- h. Need and like ideas of resources both within and outside of Blue Valley
- i. Sibling discussion/panel (one child gifted/one not, two differently gifted, family dynamics, etc.)
- j. Suggestion for night meeting regarding gifted transition – break down into elementary to middle and middle to high. Middle to high was our most highly attended meeting. Kristin commented that we need to take care to not take away from the official teacher's transition nights. Discussion followed that the 30-45 minutes of time at those nights does not cover all gifted parents want to know. Based on the number of questions we still

receive, this is a topic we may want to continue to investigate – without creating any hard feelings.

- k. Debrowski's overexcitabilities
 - l. Book "club" topic – books/magazines we've read that were helpful, bad, recommended?
 - m. Request to repeat IEP topic in more depth – what do sessions look like, practical examples of goals, often feels that documents are so generic as to be unhelpful
 - n. Repeat of gifted curriculum
 - o. "New to Gifted" topic
 - p. Hoagies and other resources
 - q. Repeat Advocating without Alienating
3. Suggestion was made for a flier or handout titled "Now that Your Child Has Been Identified as Gifted" or "Information to Know Today to Get You Through Tomorrow"
- a. I'm not alone
 - b. The days are long, but the years are short – meet their needs, but don't rush them out the door
 - c. Gifted is an opportunity
 - d. Its ok to not be "normal"
 - e. Peer groups aren't just age groups
 - f. Kids will find their people, their group, their peers
 - g. Gifted is not the answer to everything - advocate constantly
 - h. Gifted looks different for each child
 - i. Balance is important; academics are important, but so are their passions and fun
 - j. Join a SENG group – it is a safe place for parents of gifted children to talk about the unique experience of parenting gifted kids
 - k. Work with your child's gifted team in a positive fashion; there are no villains
 - l. Parents need to learn too – what it possible in the gifted world and understand the connections
 - m. Parents in BVPAGE have been there, done that, heard that, signed that, talked to them, asked about it, laughed about it, sympathized about it, commiserated about it and celebrated it.