

PAC Meeting Minutes – Jan. 26, 2011

Attendees: Leanne Lockhart, Laura Jordan, Susan Tull, Cathy Faughnan, Lisa Green, Martha Larson, Amy Latimer, Peter Burr, Nancy Stevens, India Wood, Leah Kahn, Chris Shearer Cooper, Tricia Fitzpatrick, Andrew Tucker, Khagendra Adhikari, Anita, Marcella Setter, Silvia Mena

Counseling Office: Andrew Tucker

College Apps done.

Course selection underway at middle schools.

Feb. 1st – course selection assemblies for freshmen, soph and juniors.

Feb. 8th – course selection night for parents. Past 2 days, meeting with juniors in history classes about college process. Counseling Dept. meets with every senior but juniors should initiate meeting with counselor.

Kevin Braney:

In school improvement plan, not pleased with boys' reading scores. Trying to address this in our literacy dept. Laura Jordan in attendance to share how BHS is addressing this issue.

Laura Jordan- Literacy teacher:

How do we maximize improvement with our students? Reading workshop classes for ESL support. Teaches reading strategies. Next year, class will be offered for accelerated readers.

Where do reluctant students fit in at BHS? They should take the accelerated class. Laura encourages parents to call her about where your child fits in for reading instruction.

Martha recommends a book called Connecting to a Reluctant Teenage Reader. (Hope I got that right...)

India asked how reading scores have changed- Kevin: ACT scores have increased. As a school, CSAP scores have improved since 2007. Significant differences between male and female. Issues with test motivation. Majority of students say they don't take tests seriously. For some reason, students seem to take ACT test more seriously. Laura feels students' endurance for reading instruction is shorter than the past. A 4 week unit 13 years ago, now takes 7 weeks. Kids can't read as much at one sitting.

Conversation needs to address how to teach reading strategies in all content areas.

Back to Kevin:

Vision/Hearing screening for Thurs. Feb. 3rd for Freshmen and students new to the district.

Professional Development Day: Feb. 25th.

Academic Letter Night: 6:00PM Wed. Feb. 23rd

Thanks Leah for great work for Showcase. As of Jan. 14th, only 3 students in our neighborhood have open enrolled to a different high school.

Thanks for Silvia for heading up Informational night at BHS for Casey/spanish speaking families.

We need support from parents and students for student engagement for CSAP. Last year we went below a 95% participation rate. Scores are used for many things, mainly faculty review. Students making a political statement only hurts the school. Encourage students to participate and do their best!

3A Money: Will put budget back to what it was in 2008. \$200,000 coming Feb. 3rd. Restoring cuts with Freshmen seminar, extra duty contracts, restoring health room hours, extra hours in Ozone- This is 30% of the 200,000. Kevin can save as much as he wants for next year. Will add teacher support in science, wants a coordinator for AP program. Wants parent feedback for spending. Looking at building improvements, teacher training, technology in the classroom (Kindles?), decreasing class size, adding paras.

Late start: All schools have been asked to provide 55 minutes of professional development /wk. All high schools will have late start every Wed. At next PAC meeting, will bring faculty feedback. Classes will be 55 minutes long and 45 minutes long on Wed and Thurs. TAP needs to move to Thurs. at the end of the school day and shortened to 40 minutes. And where to put Freshmen seminar? 1170 school hours this year. For proposal, we have 1166 hours. Looking for parent feedback- will post on website. Martha asked if can we have TAP on Mondays? Bus transportation still will be provided. Most faculty is for it. One con discussed is it might be difficult for working parents who start work at 8:00AM who drive their kids to school. Can offer simple classes before school start for kids who can only get to school early. Kevin will be sending out special email about it all to parents. There's also a modified block schedule option where Mon., Tues and Friday would be regular 55 minute periods and Wed and Thurs would be block days with 1.5-2 hour classes.

Martha Larson:

Unity/Equity meetings have been going well with new parent/faculty group. Next meeting: Feb. 9th at 6:00PM.

Marcella Setter- Enews:

Encourages more submissions from all parts of school. Enews is getting thin and dry. Discussion about need for a new communication plan between BHS and parents.

Tricia Fitzpatrick- DPC

Meeting was cancelled. Wants to organize a panel like Chris King did for DPC

that was very informative. Included school resource officer, counselors, other professionals from various areas of district- Very informative about what's going on in the schools.

Leah: Staff Appreciation:

140 gift cards donated for faculty at the holidays.
Next: In March for p/t conferences, providing food.

India: Governance Team:

Because of threats and thefts, looking into getting a security camera. No other BVSD high schools have cameras on the inside of the school. Kevin looking into it.

Discussion around preventing kids from getting loaded up with assignments. Question raised if kids get clear information for tests/homework. Most think there is clear information but there's a problem with changes. Teachers need to write changes on white boards.

Parking: Teachers are emphatic that parents should not pull into the faculty parking lots for drop off.

Try to avoid dropping kids off right in front of the school. Drop off a block away.

Lisa: PAC Co-chair:

Offered copy of budget if anyone wants to see it.

Sylvia:

Idea to send out paper invitations to parents to PAC meetings. Counseling Office: