

Boulder High School PAC Meeting Minutes - March 30th, 2011

Attendees: Clarissa King, Tricia Fitzpatrick, Nancy Stevens, India Wood, Leah Kahn, Thom and Jody McCarthy, Marcella Setter, Lisa Green, Terry Odendahl, Martha Larsen, Lauren Hager, Leanne Lockhart

No Report from Counseling Office

Kevin:

Volunteer Tea – Friday April 1st- 7:30AM in library

BVSD had 6 Boettcher Scholars, 3 are from BHS: Rosa Baum, Jesse Shapiro, Nick Anderson. 40 across state. Great honor and full scholarship to a CO university. More details on BHS website.

Unity Week: (before spring break) parent unity council had an event in the cafeteria to mix students, cool mural was painted in hall first floor, east of science wing- (check it out!) music played in halls, assembly over Panther TV. As a result from that, we might be recognized as a No Place for Hate School from the ADL (lingo from Kevin).

96% attendance for CSAP- 95% is minimum from state for school to shoot for.

April 6th. Invitation to meet the coaches and other activities for incoming freshmen.

Conference on World Affairs next week. Teachers are encouraged to take their students but it's still optional. More info.on BHS website.

April 8th- late registration for AP test registration.

Several students still need to register for next year's classes. Kids should work with counselors to make sure they know what they should take. Then Kevin can start his budget for next year.

\$12.9 million in cuts for next year from district. Can roll 3A funds (\$199,000) into budget to cover cuts. Doesn't look too bad. Will lose some clerical positions and some Special Ed. and ESL assistance, however our need is going to be lower in those areas.

We're funded for 27.4 students/teacher- up one from a few years ago. Any class under 20 students is looked at for cutting or not. Max size: 34-35 in some AP classes. German: 40 students. Kevin explained how he considers cutting a class or not. Attrition rate at BHS is lowering.

Prom: Location change to Millenium in the bubble due to Boulder Theater contract that was incorrectly booked for Friday night, not Sat. night. Same date: Sat. April 30th.

School Improvement Report: Climate progress strong. Other equity issue: how are you addressing underrepresented kids? BHS has a wide range of programs to support this population. Lots of other areas have shown improvement. Challenge: what's happening in our regular classes so kids are being appropriately challenged. Kevin is going to write up a summary for parents of this 26 page report and make it available for parents to read if interested.

Discussion about AP classes, advance classes and regular classes. Parents would like to have the conversation of having more advanced ("honors") classes but not AP. Big discrepancy between regular history class and AP history. This concerns parents.

Big thank you to Leah Kahn and Jody McCarthy for supplying food at parent/teacher conferences.

Bell schedule: Kevin wants to make decision in next couple of weeks. Thanks to Regina Bock who organized all the parent feedback. 93% in favor for late start. About 150 parents responded. Lots of emails. Kevin had an evening session and a breakfast session for parent feedback. Faculty: in favor for late start, but not completely in favor for modified block. Research definitely states that 30 minutes of extra sleep leads to higher academic achievement. Kids don't just stay up later, in fact they go to bed 15 minutes earlier. Research is not as clear about whether modified block increases achievement. Kevin still wants regular schedule for Mon., Tues and Friday (with 8AM start) with modified block on Wed and Thurs. But there's still an issue with after school activities starting later. Kevin wanted to point out that all this bell schedule change started because the district is mandating a staff collaboration time every week. Period Zero was nixed (would have been at 7:10AM). Proposal was made for a mandatory study session for struggling students rather than relying on the students to seek out their teachers during TAP or lunch.

Here is where this is all going from here: (whew!) Kevin will meet with a faculty committee, devise the schedule and put it out there for everyone in the next couple of weeks.

Lisa: (Co-chair) PAC has a lot of money. We should spend it with some reserve for next year. We need all ideas on the table. Please email Lisa with any ideas on what to spend it on. She is going to get ideas from Kevin, theater, other people that have mentioned they have needs. India will ask faculty at GT for ideas. Marcella suggests that the money should be spent on something that benefits a certain percentage of the student body. The bulk of the April meeting will be on voting on how to spend the \$\$.

Teri our Treasurer: \$8,000 to spend.

Martha Larson: Suggested putting Student Directory on line. Legal issues involved with this.

Could BHS families donate computers/resources for equity team to provide assistance for families in need?

Leah: (Staff Appreciation) Need \$1500 more to finish out the year to do staff appreciation events. PAC voted on the spending and, alas, they got their wish! Leah and Jody stressed how appreciative the staff is to be fed at conferences and to receive their holiday gift certificates. Had trouble collecting parent donations for food and adds lots of effort on their part. We feel PAC can fund the food and makes it a lot easier for everyone. What better place to spend the money than on teachers!

India: No more news from GT other than what Kevin has covered.

Tricia Fitzpatrick (District Parent Council)- Met with Clarissa King and Kevin about getting together a Risky Youth Advisory Panel. DPC had one at their meeting and Tricia thought it was wonderful and the same format should be brought to BHS. Thoughts are to do it next year with 4 panels. Gave out a handout with proposed topics with the people that head up a panel. It's more an interactive question and answer event than just a presentation. Mainly for parents. Educational. Not just for parents of kids with risky behavior. To give a heightened sense of awareness of what's going on within the BHS student body. Teri suggested to make sure it's a discussion group, not just a presentation. Martha suggested to make sure there are suggestions and tools offered for parents so people don't leave feeling helpless. Everyone thought this sounds wonderful. We just need to market it well so we have high attendance.