

PAC Meeting Minutes – Dec. 15, 2010

Attendees: Melinda Gillespie, Nancy Stevens, Tricia Fitzpatrick, Naomi Flint-Winicki, Jack Pommer- yes, A DAD!!, Marcella Setter, Theresa Szczurek, Martha Larson, Bill De La Cruz, Kevin Braney, Joanna Berman

Introductions

Joanna Berman: Counseling Dept.

ICAP – new state legislation that every student will have a 4 year plan. Counseling Dept. has given Freshmen students career interest survey; Sophomores: Meyers Briggs test. All students have on-line account. Pre and Post test shows how much sophomores learn thru this test. Counselors continue to train students to maximize their Naviance Accounts.

Seniors and Parents - 30 minute discussion on Wednesday, January 12, from 2:30 - 3:00 pm by Joann Beserra on the scholarship and financial aid processes- finding scholarships and applying for financial aid, including demonstrations of the tools available.

85% of BHS students go to a 4 year college.

224 college apps have been processed thus far. Many more will be processed over the next month.

Melinda brought up how college admissions process is confusing for parents. Can counseling dept. write up some sort of letter about the college admissions process? Joann thought this might be possible.

Student Council Report: (by Kevin since no Student Council Rep. was present)

Raised \$3500 to prepare food baskets for charity through pie throwing contest.

Winter Ball in Jan. Being moved to the Pit due to the popularity of the dances.

Kevin Braney- Principal's Report:

Happy Birthday to Kevin!

Fixing muddy mess under marquis outside of school for bike rack users.

Kevin had a baby! He's just returning from paternity leave.

Showcase: About 400 families attended. Seemed to go well. Jan. 10th is a follow-up.

Volunteers needed for tours, refreshments, etc.

BHS enrollment was beyond projections last year. Should continue to increase hopefully for more funding.

Presentations coming last week of Jan. for kids to start thinking of next year courses.

An Internship class has been approved for next year for Seniors. Also a digital design class and an AP Art History class.

Continuing to work on conversation with faculty about sticking to the curriculum in the way it's written to create equality among classes. (For example, Kevin wants all students to learn the same thing in all pre-calc classes) Also, balancing act to make sure all kids master material as well as offer more for students who need more. Need to decrease the extreme tracking of classes that has happened. Need to raise the rigor in the "normal" classes and increase the diversity of abilities in the same class. Curriculum Essentials Document comes from the district for the regular classes. Big changes coming to all high schools in the state. Kevin will present a powerpoint next semester about all this.

Collected parent feedback for new BVSD Academic Calendar. BHS will have a late start on Wed. next year. This means school will start one hour later for students; teachers are still at school for professional development.

Donation from the class of 1960: \$5000- Announcement with details on BHS homepage. Donation bought benches in courtyard, Smartboards for classes, other technology for the classrooms.

Hoping to incorporate iPads in science classes.

Tricia Fitzpatrick– DPC –

Presentation at DPC meeting about the survey kids take about their behaviors. For parents, this survey reinforces how challenging the world is for our kids. Need to build community in BHS about how we can support our children when they are so exposed to at-risk behavior. Recommends everyone see documentary Race To Nowhere about all this.

Bill De La Cruz-

Working with Kevin on Equity at BHS- Includes opportunity, access and inclusion at school, district and the state level (pew!). Looking at technology, teacher methodology, time. Equity team with 30 teachers at BHS- Having conversations with a student unity group. No Place For Hate training. Parents need to be a part of all this as well. How do we engage more parents with all these issues? First equity meeting last week began the conversation. Bias issues. Looking at our biases and how they affect relationships. Hopefully this equity culture will spread throughout school in all departments. We all have the power to promote change. There's no one at district level leading this equity process. Therefore, Kevin is heading this up for our school. Goal is to get to a critical mass for specific changes at BHS beyond a theoretical conversation.

Next Equity Meeting: Jan. 12th, 6-8PM. Announcing it in Enews.

Melinda questioned are we offering support outside the school; specifically, English classes for Non-English speaking parents. Bill is open to any suggestion to how we can better support all our students.

Kevin: going to have a forum in Feb. about School Improvement Plan for parents' feedback. Tricia thinks we should have the Race To Nowhere Documentary at BHS before it since it's very thought provoking.

Kevin summarized what was discussed at the Athletic Summit. The minutes are going to be posted on BHS website soon. PAC will send out link on Enews.

Committee Reports deferred to January.

Meeting adjourned 8:40PM- 20 minutes early!!