Friday, March 4, 2016
BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Amy Gallentine, Heidi Mann, Patty Logan, Cathryn Linney, Tracie Howell

BV School District Guests: Kristin Asquith
Attendees: 23

I. Welcome – Tracy Elford
   a. Brain Blizzard was a big success
      i. 42 students (10 teams) in attendance
      ii. Event will be returning next year
   b. Registration is open for March SENG group
      i. Not enough registrants at this point
      ii. Deadline March 15
   c. Nighttime Best of BVPAGE Meeting announced
      i. Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
      ii. Location - Hilltop Campus, Conference Room B
      iii. Topics
          1. Johnson County Library System Website
          2. Gifted Curriculum and Gifted IEPs
   d. Review questions from last month – see website

II. Summer Robotics Camp – Patty Logan
    a. 3 weeks consisting of 6 camps in July 2016
    b. Registration is open – openings still available
    c. Do not need gifted IEP

III. Legislative Update – Patty Logan
    a. Mid-Feb – bill was brought to remove gifted education from KS Special Ed
       i. Doing this would remove guarantee of services for gifted students and money for gifted teachers
    b. Bill removed within 24 hours due to outpouring of negative feedback
    c. Recent court decision by KS Supreme Court
       i. Court feels money is not distributed equitably between school districts in KS
       ii. If the budget is not resolved by beginning of fiscal year (July 1), schools will not open
       iii. BV will lose money – approx. $2M
       iv. BV does have reserve fund to cover fiscal emergency
       v. Stand Up Blue Valley – Families for our schools
          1. Visit website at StandUpBlueValley.org or visit them on Facebook

IV. Special Ed Mini-Conference - Tracie Howell
    a. Update on recent conference
    b. Resource Fair
       i. April 5
ii. 82 vendors currently, 100 expected
iii. Hilltop Center – 6-9 pm

V. Board of Ed Curriculum & Instruction committee – Kristin Asquith
   a. Class Rank discussion
      i. School district is evaluating removing class rank from transcripts
      ii. 10-12 yrs. ago rank was deemed important; current research shows that rank is not as important today
      iii. Committee investigating what a variety of colleges look for in class rank, what do other schools do, etc.
      iv. No decisions yet, but watch for future updates
      v. Class of 2015 – bottom 4.0 ranked 111 out of approx. 400

VI. Twice Exceptional Children – Kristin Asquith, BV Coordinator of Gifted Services
   a. Parent-led discussion – questions/topics raised
      i. Need for more assistive technologies
      ii. How does being accepted into Gifted affect Special Ed?
         1. It doesn’t – just gives access to Gifted in addition; takes nothing away
      iii. BV looking into adding dyslexia to Special Ed list
      iv. By law, teachers cannot diagnose, but frequently use “code words”
      v. Parents of twice-exceptional need more resources – more guidance from teachers and schools
      vi. Twice-exceptionality should be introduced earlier to Special Ed parents
      vii. How does a disability affect the identification process and vice versa?
      viii. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program is not an academic intervention
      ix. If having struggles or issues, please contact Kristin Asquith
          (KAsquith@bluevalleyk12.org)
      x. Need for a support or SENG-like group for Twice Exceptional parents
         1. Heidi Mann and Tracie Howell looking into this option
         2. Contact Heidi Mann (Heidi.bruce.mann@gmail.com) for more information

VII. Next month’s topic – BV Performing and Visual Arts Curriculum by Kathleen Cigich; Director of Visual Arts and Janelle Brower; Director of Performing Arts