BVPAGE Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 8, 2016

Board Members Present: Tracy Elford, Lisa Johnston, Amy Gallentine, Christy Kelley, Delora Crawford, Patty Logan, Lisa Nickel

BV School District Guests: Kristin Asquith, Mark Schmidt

Attendees: 22

I. Welcome – Tracy Elford
   a. Showed pictures from commissioned Robotics Challenges being delivered – teachers loved them!
   b. Reviewed questions from last month’s meeting (see Dec. meeting minutes)
   c. New location for Summer Opportunities Fair
      i. Hilltop Campus Conf. Rm A, February 2, 2016 7 - 8:30 pm
      ii. More vendors
      iii. New vendors include Engineering for Kids, Drive Right Driving School, MO University of Science & Technology
      iv. Invite others! – open to all
   d. Legislative update - Patty Logan
      i. See below
   e. Brain Blizzard
      i. Feb. 20, 2016 at Scheels
      ii. For 7th & 8th grade gifted students
      iii. If interested in helping, contact Lisa Nickel (lisanickel@yahoo.com)

II. State of the Blue Valley School District and State of Gifted Education - Dr. Mark Schmidt, Executive Director of Student Services for Blue Valley (see full presentation on our website under 2015-2016 Meeting Minutes & Handouts)
   a. Fast facts about Blue Valley
      i. Superintendent search – at candidate interview stage, new superintendent announced early Spring
      ii. 2015 Customer Assessment Survey
         1. Results – district and teacher grades at 91% each; 97% of respondents felt the quality of BV positively affects property values and economic development; quality of buildings, safety, quality of education and value received for tax dollars invested all scored “A” or “B”
      iii. International comparisons
         1. PISA Math – US ranked 36th, BV 6th
         2. PISA Reading – US ranked 24th, BV 4th
         3. PISA Science – US ranked 28th, BV 6th
      iv. Other
         1. ACT – BV average score 25.4
         2. SAT – BV had highest composite in district history at 1864; compared to KS average of 1753 and national average of 1497
         3. All 5 BV High Schools named to:
            a. Washington Post’s 2015 Most Challenging High Schools
            b. Newsweek’s 2014 Top Public High Schools list
            c. The Daily Beast’s 2014 list of America’s top high schools
         4. Blue Valley graduation rate is 97%
         5. District bond rating is Excellent
            a. Moody’s (Aaa)
            b. Standard & Poor (AA+)
b. Fast facts about Special Education in Blue Valley
   i. Growth of Primary Exceptionality (change since 2011-12)
      1. Gifted – 6%
      2. Twice Exceptional – 3%
      3. Total Gifted – 6%
      4. General Ed Population – 2.1%

c. Fast facts about Gifted Education in Kansas and Blue Valley – Did You Know?
   i. Gifted Education Laws and Funding
      1. States with gifted education services mandated by law – 32
      2. States that have a mandate and fully fund gifted education – 4
      3. States that have a gifted education mandate and provide some funding – 19 (KS provides $27,750/Full-time gifted teacher)
      4. States that include gifted education at part of special education -8
   ii. Gifted Education Identification
      1. KS students identified as gifted – 12,989 or 2.3%
      2. BV students identified as gifted – 1700+ or 8%
      3. BV will accept an IEP immediately if from AL, FL, KS, LA, NM, PA, TN, WV
   iii. Gifted Education Staffing
      1. K-12 public schools in KS (excluding BV) - 2011
      2. Gifted Education teachers - KS 328 (excluding BV), BV 39
      3. Average schools served by gifted teachers in KS (excluding BV) - 6.1, BV – 1.0
      4. Staffing models
         a. Itinerant teachers serve multiple buildings (Most of KS, including Olathe, DeSoto, Lawrence)
         b. Students bussed to gifted education center once per week (Shawnee Mission)
         c. Teacher in every building (BV)
   iv. Legislative issues/State Budget Questions
      1. KS revenues below predictions in December
         a. Income Tax (-$26 million)
         b. Sales Tax Receipts (-$14 million)
      2. Choices if revenue is below budget
         a. Taxes
         b. Spending reductions
         c. Transfer from other state funds
      3. Watch for Governor’s Speech & Efficiency Study
      4. Efficiency – are schools spending money wisely? Are local boards spending money the way the legislator thinks it should?
         a. Public schools serve a wide variety of students – what is optional or frivolous to one, may seem necessary to another
         b. Are the following part of “instruction”?
            i. Gifted education teachers – no (except in HS/Middle)
            ii. Counselors - no
            iii. Nurses - no
            iv. Social workers - no
            v. Librarians - no
            vi. HVAC - no
            vii. Transportation - no
            viii. Classroom supplies - no
            ix. Extra-curricular - no
         c. Funding comes from combo of fed, state and local dollars
            i. How funds are spent is determined by local BOE
            ii. Would it increase efficiency to move some decisions to the state?
iii. Some recent discussion may impact local BOE (election dates, conflict of interest, state approval for bonds, requirements for how to spend at-risk funding)

5. Effectiveness – are students prepared for college and career after K-12?
   a. How do we measure success (MAP, ACT, etc.)?
   b. Minor changes to the system vs. complete overhaul
   c. Keep in mind...
      i. KS and BV are good, but can improve. Must have a “growth mindset.”
      ii. Publicizing select test scores can make a school look very good or very bad. Form opinions from multiple data points, from multiple assessments. Some assessments are not aligned with KS curriculum.
   d. Students who don’t choose college prep may need remedial classes in college or score poorly on ACT/SAT
   e. Achievement gaps important, but look to see if all student groups improve over time and if gap is narrowing.

III. Next meeting – Feb 5, 2016
   a. Financial overview for BVPAGE
   b. Mini-SENG session – open forum for parents to talk about what it is like to parent gifted children