



# District Parent Council

## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020**

BVSD Education Center, Aspen Room

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

[Committee Norms](#)

### Agenda

1. Welcome – FP Fournier, Co-Chair
  - a. November minutes ([en](#), [es](#))
2. School Strategic Support Model (S3M) – Robbyn Fernandez\*, Area Superintendent
3. District updates – Robbyn Fernandez\*
  - a. School visits
  - b. Sexual violence
4. Student and family stressors – Council Members
5. Closing – FP Fournier
  - a. Next meeting: **February 19th**
  - b. Video meeting capability

*\* Robbyn Fernandez replaced Sam Messier and Rob Anderson.*

### Actions Items

- Council Members – Please email your future topics of interest, other input to a chair.

## 1. **Welcome** (approx. 6:35 – 6:45 p.m.)

Fournier opened the meeting with a New Year's greeting, and pointed out that the agenda had changed due to late-breaking events. He thanked Area Superintendent Fernandez for standing in for District Superintendent Anderson, and for presenting on school support in lieu of Ari Gerzon-Kessler on family partnerships. Fournier also welcomed Ginger Barnes, the new representative for Boulder High, and Jennifer Singer representing Fireside Elementary for the evening.

## 2. **School Strategic Support Model** (approx. 6:45 – 7:15 p.m.)

*Background: Like any other human institution, Colorado public schools are perfectible, and in fact legally required to regularly engage in formal [improvement planning](#).*

Starting this year, BVSD is leveraging its new [strategic plan](#) and [network structure](#) to better support schools with the specific resources needed to achieve their selected goals. Key elements of this new support model were highlighted:

- **Analysis:** As a team, school and network staff review performance data and identify or prioritize an area of challenge or focus referred to as a “problem of practice”.
- **Planning:** Principals are offered a variety of research-based strategies and select an action plan which they believe best fits their school and student needs.
- **Implementation:** Network directors marshal the resources and coordinate the custom services required to carry out the plan and improve student outcomes.

Fernandez answered several questions about the kind of data and methods used to conduct root cause analysis, about the capacity of teachers to engage in the analytical process, and about the availability of interim data to monitor progress and perhaps change course.

## 3. **District updates** (approx. 7:15 – 7:45 p.m.)

Anderson having sent his regrets due to a bad cold, Fernandez offered to address his agenda items.

### a. School visits

- In his second year, as in his first, the superintendent is visiting every school in the district and is currently more than halfway through his tour.
- The purpose of his visits is to keep his finger on the pulse of the great work that’s happening in schools, and to hear directly from staff what they and their students need.
- The meetings are also an opportunity to engage and answer questions about the strategic initiatives currently underway.

b. Sexual violence

- In response to recent allegations of sexual assault involving BVSD students, Anderson sent a [letter](#) to the community outlining the district’s commitment to supporting victims and addressing sexual violence.
- Fernandez made clear that sexual harassment is not and will not be tolerated, and that BVSD will do everything it can to educate students and prevent sexual misconduct.
- DPC members brought up various concerns about off-campus activities and the influence of drugs and alcohol, as well as the district’s previous efforts in engaging students around this issue.
- Several support resources were mentioned: Safe2Tell, BVSD’s [Sexual Violence website](#), the organization [Moving to End Sexual Assault](#) (MESA), the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) and Blue Sky Bridge programs.
- Finally, representatives from Casey related the difficulty of engaging some Spanish-speaking families around this and other topics with English-only and electronic communications.

**4. Student and family stressors** (approx. 7:55 – 8:25 p.m.)

*Background: Every year, the District Accountability Committee (DAC) gives the Board of Education a set of recommendations on district spending priorities, which are based on a survey of school accountability committees and a review of district performance trends.*

Following a 10-min. break, Fournier facilitated a discussion of [DAC’s most recent recommendation](#) to prioritize mental health services and resources. Questions explored included:

- Does “mental health services” signify something different than school counselors, or social and emotional learning (SEL), a DAC priority for the last few years?
- Based on personal knowledge, how prevalent are mental health problems at the primary and secondary school levels?
- At the elementary level, what curriculum do teachers and counselors use to teach SEL competencies?
- At the high school level, are school counselors primarily focused on academic and college/career guidance?
- At any level, how does BVSD evaluate the impact of mental health professionals on student climate and well-being?
- What are some chronic and acute [sources of stress](#) which may lead to mental health problems, and Colorado’s high rate of teen suicide?
- How does BVSD’s complement of social workers, psychologists, counselors, and nurses compare to [recommended staffing levels for behavioral health staff](#)?

## **5. Closing** (approx. 8:25 – 8:30 p.m.)

Before adjourning, Fournier reminded the Council of the next meeting on February 19th. He also inquired about videoconferencing, with several members indicating their interest.

*Drafted on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 2020. FP Fournier*

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“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

—Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963)

“And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.”

—Martin Luther King Jr., A Proper Sense of Priorities (1968)