Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017

Members in Attendance: Matt Shockley, Laura Samide, Leila Rostam, Amy Maharas, Lisa France, Mary Burkhart, Dustin Sites, Savannah Hwang, Kristen Hwang, Amy Beliles and Sara Hunter.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. with a quick introduction of members and Sara thanking everyone for coming. The reason for this meeting is to review the logistics and plan follow up questions for the patrons of Parent Night. Parent Night will be held at Avon High School, on January 30, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sara shared a copy of the ACSC High Ability Parent Newsletter that will be sent out to high ability parents in the next few days. This is the first invitation high ability parents will receive for the High Ability Parent Night. Included in this newsletter is logistical information for the evening.

The article highlights the keynote speaker, Lisa Van Gemert, who will begin the evening with an hour-long presentation entitled, “The Five Headed Dragon: Threats to Giftedness.” We will then have a fifteen minute break for people to move about and attend one of three breakout sessions of their choice: “The Gift of Self” presented by Lisa Van Gemert in the auditorium; “Finding Balance” a student panel, which will be presented by ACSC High Ability Students and Administrators, held in the Main Cafeteria; and lastly, “Mindfulness Mindset” hosted by ACSC School Counselors in the ALC Tiered Lecture Hall. The bottom of the newsletter has Sara Hunter’s contact information with a box that parents can click on to send a reply email directly to Sara.

Mr. Clark, from the high school, will have students from the ASCAP group to guide parents to the breakout sessions. These students can also help greet our guests as they walk into the building. Carol Aylor can assist with signage and our presenter’s audio/projector needs in the auditorium.

What about a program? We will have a paper program for ASCAP students and BBPC members to hand out to parents when they arrive through Door 33. We will have a table with extra programs by the entryway. Barb Marcotte can distribute programs and answer questions at that table. Name tags for all Broad Based Planning Committee members will be made prior, to wear by committee members as we greet parents. Name tags will be on that table around 6:10 p.m., so members can arrive at that time, pin their name tags and be set for a great evening! If you are willing to be a greeter, please let Sara know.

This is a great time to plan what breakout sessions members are planning on attending so that we can have representation at all sessions. Barb will send out an email to all members asking if they will be in attendance, which breakout session they will attend, and if they are willing to take a head count of their session for attendance number purposes. For now, we know that we will have Laura Samide, Lisa France and Dustin Sites in Mindfulness Mindset. Matt Shockley, Savannah Hwang, Kristen Hwang, and Leila Rostam will be attending Finding Balance. Amy Maharas and Mary Burkhart will enjoy The Gift of Self with Lisa Van Gemert.

How are we going to communicate this evening? Sara explained that since this event is being funded through high ability grant funds, it can only be marketed to high ability students and their families. Because of this, we need to be selective on how we market this evening. This is one time that social
media cannot be used. We can send an email to all high ability parents in grades 3 and up. School Messenger is another way that we can reach out to these parents to invite them to this event. We are not going to ask parents to register in advance, as we do not want someone to feel that they would not be welcome if they did not RSVP. We will also want to let parents know that this is an evening for parents, and that childcare will not be provided.

Sara also shared that Lisa Van Gemert will also host two separate two-hour sessions for high ability teachers during the school day, besides giving the keynote address and evening breakout session.

What should be on the program? Besides the itinerary, we should offer a short survey for parents to complete, if they desire, before they leave. Short, multiple choice questions for quick reply with a comment box for parents to add anything that they would like to share was decided on. What questions? Grade level(s) of high ability students. Keynote speaker’s information valuable? Did you gain any practical information to help with your student? What breakout session did you attend? Did you walk away with useful information? Maybe even: One thing I learned... for the comment section. Other topics in future? How can this committee help you in the future? And lastly, have a space for parents to check Yes! I am interested in becoming a member of the Broad Based Planning Committee.

At the end of the breakout session, maybe we could have a power point slide that mentions, “Thank you so much for attending tonight! Please scan this code and give us some feedback.” This allows parents who may not want to complete a paper survey on-site to complete the survey at their convenience.

Sara asked everyone to stand for a group photo. Once taken, the meeting concluded at 7:02 p.m.