

BHS PAC meeting 10/10/13

Meeting brought to order by President Monica Shouse at 12:15. Introduction of all members, guests and BHS staff.

Principal's report: Long range strategic plan is focusing on 4 general areas: Personalize Learning, Instruction and Assessment, Communication, and School Environment. The Early Warning System is the big focus in the High School. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), the ABC – Academics Behavior Credit.

Instruction focus: Implementation of Common Core. We are one of 45 states that have adopted the common core. Testing begins next year – smarter, balance assessment – literacy thread runs throughout all areas. English, Language Arts, Math

The official enrollment at BHS is 1,963 which is the official number on the first Monday of October. BHS is probably the largest high school in the state. Back to school night was a success. Teaching Excellence and Achievement Fellows are here for the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program at the school and Mr. Conwell reminded everyone of the STEM forum on Oct 16 from 5 to 9 at the Museum of the Rockies. PLTW – Project Lead The Way – is training our students and they are scoring 15% higher in bioscience and engineering than the national average. November 11 – 15 Pre-college applications in the state of Montana will be free due to the Federal Financial Aid. There will also be a FAFSA night for parents to help with filling out financial assistance paperwork.

Esther Yoon from AmeriCorps VISTA talked about her project to increase interest and awareness for post-secondary education and reminding students that there are other educational opportunities besides a 4 year college degree. Only 3 -4 % of HS graduates go to 2 year schools. AmeriCorps is hoping to start a brown bag lunch to educate students and also want to apply for a grant that can help seniors with the college application process. They would like PAC support with programs – volunteers would be ideal.

Robin Hompesch gave an update on Mandeville Creek Project which is trying to get students to see the importance of wildlife management. This project proposes to start with restoring the creek in the area closest to Main Street (where intense restoration is needed) and then work toward the north. At some point they would also like to add outdoor classroom space. A nice drawing has been done by Chris Wasia, a BHS parent, showing the potential for this area. Funding has been received from a few sources with some pending as well as many volunteers, but more volunteers will be necessary to start this project and complete the first few goals. More funding needs to be raised, help with outdoor classroom design, organizing student groups and planting trees next fall. Robin is a teacher at BHS and can be reached at robin.hompesch@bsd7.org or you can contact Abigail Breuer at abreuer@3rivers.net.

Volunteer events: We will need volunteers to help chaperone the Homecoming Dance on Oct 26th.

There is an urgent volunteer request for After Prom Coordinators - this can be a group position. Prom has been set for April but the final date was still in negotiation.

We also need a volunteer coordinator for the After Graduation Party.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm. Next meeting is 11/14.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Harmon