

## **BCSIS Ed Council Meeting March 2018-2019 School Year**

### **Mindfulness regarding participation during meeting (Meaghan)**

- We want to try to practice what we are doing in our classrooms to help facilitate a more balanced communication in our Ed Council meetings. Concepts to follow:
  - If you are the person that seems to makes an offer all the time, try to sit back and allow others to make an offer first. This will help honor those that are more shy or quiet and/or not apt to jump in first. That way, more voices will be heard.
  - On the flip side, if you are someone who tends to sit back, please make an offer more often.

### **Ed Council accomplishments to date (Emily H & Phil)**

- Emily wants to share all the great things that we have gotten done this year,
  - All fundraisers we have done this year have hit or gone above our marks.
  - We have had great attendance at all events – higher than previous years.
  - Our NewsBlast and communication strategy seems to be working – one litmus test is that we aren't getting a ton of emails saying otherwise, and the fundraising has been up.
  - The teachers have felt more connected to the parent body this year through Ed Council, they came in with the desire to communicate about community and feel it has been a total success.
  - Tutors have been such a HUGE success – teachers are amped to keep going with them.

### **Gym fan discussion with High Peaks (Phil)**

- High Peaks has purchased a giant fan for the gym because there is no air conditioning in there. The company they are considering is called Big Ass Fan.
  - There is one at Bear Creek and Platt and they are VERY happy with it
  - High Peaks has been talking about the fan for quite a while and at the last meeting it was approved and they are hoping we can pitch in.
    - The total cost is \$11,500
    - They know that we may not pay for half and that we weren't part of the decision-making process, but obviously we will benefit from it greatly.
    - Phil has let them know that we have a lot of other expenditures and it is an extremely tight year.
  - Factors discussed about how/why we participate:
    - We only use the gym 1/3 of the time b/c we use the cafeteria for movement
    - In theory we should be using the gym for movement, a decision by both schools was made a long time ago for BCSIS to have movement in the cafeteria.
    - We could tell them we are already tight for this/next year and or tell them that we can pay for the cafeteria fan when we do that or tell them we can look at it in October of next year.

- Emily thinks that what is more important is a fan in the cafeteria, where we do movement and the kids make a ton of heat in there in the spring.
  - So if we are going to pitch in on this, maybe they can commit to pitch in on that when we do the cafeteria
  - Both spaces could really use a fan – so maybe we can commit in next 2/3 years to do the fan, maybe a few smaller fans
  - Jen W suggested we add sound absorption to the cafeteria as well
- Emily H: We need to figure out where we are with fundraising spring campaign. We already need to bring in more money for next year to cover the tutors, so this may need to be pushed to the future.

### **Spaghetti Dinner (Emily H)**

- Super successful, we raised more than we needed for outdoor Ed this year.
- Outdoor Ed in 5<sup>th</sup> grade is a trip for three nights / four days
  - They do a lot of Passage Works, preparing for transition into middle school.
- Every family pays a certain amount and some scholarship money – the fundraising money from the Spaghetti Dinner covers the rest.

### **Spring community meeting quick update (Emily teacher)**

- We contacted a lot of people based on the recommendations.
- Ironically, the executive functioning speakers did not get back to Emily when they said they would.
- The person we landed on is Shelby Paulina, the former director the Friend's School pre school and now of their middle school:
  - She teaches a class for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders on EF
  - Phil and Emily are going to have her focus on introductory, basic info for parents and the home/school connection piece
- We will have the circus team for childcare, which is super fun.

### **May Day**

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade parents are primarily responsible for May Day celebration – parents are here in the morning for the festival.
  - For grades K-2, they celebrate the rest of the day as each teacher wishes.
- Field day for grades 3-5 is another day.

### **Volunteerism (including feedback from classroom reps, how to effectively fill roles, opening up Ed Council meeting attendance). Emily H**

- We want to discuss how much is asked of parents. Teresa tried to set a meeting with all parent reps and only 1 person showed up.
- It is hard to get people to understand what will be required when they signed up.
  - Some folks from Ed Council might have pulled that information together last year, Emily will check with Lisa Galey.

- There is a shift in the culture of the school. In the past there were a lot of artist parents with a lot of space and time and whose lives were available to be here a lot and make arts and crafts, and it seems that now there might be less time available and less desirability among the parents and that the culture of our school hasn't quite caught up with the change.
  - How do we entice people to come to meetings, etc
    - Teresa – she reached out to reps to find out what worked this year and what didn't.
    - Thanks and appreciation get people inspired to do more.
    - Create more community together and create a team – get brunch, get drinks, etc.
- Emily teacher –
  - All of the teachers **deeply** appreciate teacher appreciation week b/c it is an intimate gesture, one of the sweetest parts of the year, AND....
  - We don't want people to feel burdened or like they have to do something – it's a choice that you choose to do when you can.
  - If there is some burn out, then take a step back – the teachers are clear that showing up is their jobs and they are each committed completely
- Jen W: the fatigue is more in trying to gather volunteers, that there is a lack of interest, how to get people to want to volunteer – there is a lot of no responses or “I can't do that.”
- Tanya: community has a lot to do with building volunteerism. In the past, each kindy class had their annual potluck at someone's home, so all the parents have a chance to get to know each other, and the event was all adults.
  - There was as mom's group for the whole grade to create more community.
- Idea: Can we give more visibility to the volunteers in the newsblast?
  - The teachers can include who did the volunteering in their classroom
- Observation: After 1<sup>st</sup> grade, people drop way off from volunteering.
- Idea: Creating two different kind of events:
  - Champion for community building – make a set playdate on a day of the week for after school at the playground for each grade for parents to get to know each other.
  - Events for adults only.
- Emily teacher remembers being at events at parent's homes – maybe we should revamp group events or meet ups or picnics.
- Vasti: at Whittier there were parent book groups.
- Kristen: we are focused on only 1 parent from each family – that could be a community building part of this to get more dad's involved.
- Jen W: we need to look at how to email the whole grade rather than just one class per rep. Maybe there is a both/and per class and per grade.
- People interested in creating a community committee to meet with Emily: Tanya, Jen, Katie and Kim

**Vaccination rates and reporting update from Stephanie Faren, BVSD Director of Health Services**

- Compliance rates for BCSIS are better this year. Our nurses have done a great job. For all vaccines, our compliance is 92% (as defined below), we used to be below 80%.
  - Compliance definition: The law in CO states that you have to prove that you have been vaccinated OR you are allowed to sign an exemption statement for your child based on philosophical, religious and medical exemptions. Parents have to notify the school every year of what vaccinations they are not doing. As long as documentation is in for each child, the family is compliant with the law.
  - Non compliant means we don't have records for an individual student.
  - You can also be in process to be compliant, which would mean you space your vaccines out differently than what is recommended.
  - Phil is dedicated to getting to 100% compliance with tons of communication up until the required date, and then after the window closes, to have kids stay at home until the documentation comes in.
- In regards to actual vaccination rates, BCSIS is on a short list in the state for the highest number of children not vaccinated.
- The staff is always mindful of how important it is to remember we are responsible to the law in regards to compliance and that we have to be incredibly respectful of parent's choices.
- Questions regarding measles specifically:
  - If your child is vaccinated, you don't have to worry too much about an outbreak.
  - Vaccinations are not 100% effective, so it will pose some risk to all children.
  - Children will only be allowed to school during an outbreak if they can prove immunity.
  - Any children who are not vaccinated will have to stay home and be quarantined for 21 days after the last case of measles shows up.
- Exemption numbers for MMR vaccine:
  - 97% compliance rate
  - 67% or 203 students K-5 are fully vaccinated out of 301 children
- Other vaccinations:
  - 75 exemptions from all
  - 90 from chickenpox
  - 76 from measles
- What are the big concerns if we do have an outbreak in Boulder:
  - Can you just get the vaccination at the sign of an outbreak
  - Women who are pregnant or families that have infants at home or immune compromised people do rely on the herd immunity so we will follow protocol of keeping unvaccinated children home and in quarantine until the outbreak is gone.
- Other facts brought up in discussion:
  - Most schools that are at a higher un vaccinated rate are much smaller than we are

- Most measles cases come from people who are out of the country and we have a student body that travels
- It is important to know & respect that our school cannot give health advice at all:
  - The liability of the school is important
  - We do send the required immunization letter each year – sent twice
  - When we get a case of a illness in the school, we contact the health department which recommends whether the whole school, grade or just the class should be communicated to. The process is a collaboration between principal and public health.

**Agenda items for next month**

- Email Emily H with your agendas