

District Parent Council meeting (virtual)

Meeting convened at 6:30pm Wednesday September 8, 2021

Rob Anderson provided background on why the District Parent Council (DPC) plays a vital role in the district. The group is a touchstone for how people are feeling, issues that are bubbling up and is a place for the staff to bring forward ideas to receive feedback. The group was encouraged to be honest and forthcoming and to recognize the vital role parents play in the district.

Lora De La Cruz was introduced. She is the new District Deputy Superintendent. Lora shared with the group her focus on evidence based, data driven instruction and practices. With an impressive background in the area as well as in shaping districts around the country, we welcome Lora to her new role in BVSD.

Rob Anderson then provided DPC with updates on COVID. The district has been and will continue to work with Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) and Broomfield Public Health (BPH) to develop strategies to ensure a positive outcome to the 2021-22 school year. The goal is for in-person learning five days a week for all 36 weeks. In reviewing the first few weeks of school, Rob feels confident that this is an achievable goal. All of our mitigation efforts have meant limited cases and quarantines.

90% of staff is vaccinated. The district does not anticipate mandating vaccines for staff. A major variable impacting this decision is the tight job market in the area.

Parent Question: Is there a way to know if high risk unvaccinated students are coming into contact with an unvaccinated staff? Answer: BVSD will not provide a list of unvaccinated staff, however the district is willing to work with concerned parents to minimize risk of exposure to the few employees who are unvaccinated.

Parent Question: Area school where students are being PCR tested unmasked in an indoor space. What is normal procedure given the excellent weather for outdoor testing? Answer: Rob will work with the Director of Operations because he agrees that as much as possible, testing should be outdoors.

Parent Question: Policy about keeping windows open on buses?

Answer: Rob believes students should be masked on buses with windows down as much as possible (weather permitting). **He will seek further answers and provide direction in the future.**

Parent Question: Policy on eating outdoors? Answer: This is a case by case basis specific to the school facilities.

Parent Question: Since students are spending so much time outdoors (which is preferable) is there some way to provide shade or sunscreen to protect from sunburn? Currently students need a prescription for sunscreen if they are to carry it with them to apply outdoors. **Answer: Rob will circle back on this question.**

Parent Question: If staff isn't vaccinated, is there mandated testing?

Answer: No but there are required masks. This is a situation that may be returned to as the school year develops.

Gratitude was expressed for current processes in place for contact tracing and testing.

Parent requested to use care when discussing vaccine mandates. Group was reminded that not everyone can be vaccinated for a variety of reasons and there are some issues surrounding mandates and how we engage with those who are unvaccinated.

Rob shared with the group about the enrollment drop for this school year. Last year the district lost 1500 students. They projected that 750 students would return. Unfortunately only 250 students have returned. This will not impact employment this year, however they may have to right size the workforce next year.

Rob reminded the group that they are still hiring for the bus drivers and solicited ideas for additional ways to incentivize hires.

CMAS scores will be released. Rob suggested parents read the scores for their own children but reminded us that participation rates were incredibly low and the scores are not a good reflection of learning.

District will be offering an accelerated learning lab which is high dosage tutoring. It will begin in Elementary and expand.

Rob also provided a bond update. Every school in the district now has air conditioning except for the mountain schools. This fall the district will complete a facility assessment and bring their report to the board of education.

Discussion of Fairview High School and the issues happening there. BVSD is dedicated to fixing the culture at Fairview. Rob acknowledged that this issue cannot be fixed overnight. It will take time, require input and commitment from our community. They have hired a new Title IX coordinator and Rob anticipates that as things move forward new structures and expectations will be created for schools and reporting.

Parent Question: What will be done in the short term to support students and staff at Fairview? Answer: Rob recognized the need to ensure that people feel safe to tell the truth. Trust needs to be built as the Title IX coordinator begins to create processes. In the interim, Rob suggested that anyone wishing to share an issue that has felt unheard up until now could email him directly.

Parent Question: Knowing what happened at Fairview and believing that this did not come out of nowhere, where does the district plan to begin conversations on informed consent? Is there an outline of the sex ed curriculum so we can better understand when this education is happening? **Answer: Rob will circle back on the current sex ed curriculum.**

Parent Question: The beginning of this school year brought busing issues. Do we anticipate this continuing? Answer: BVSD will strive to do better. However, staffing shortages continue to be an issue. Rob shared that all of our admin were out driving buses this year because it really has been an all hands on deck.

Parent Question: There was a tornado warning on the 2nd day of school and different schools handled dismissal differently. Is there a standard policy? Answer: There was not at the time but there is now. If a tornado warning is in effect, the district will handle dismissal so that all those affected will receive the same process.

Parent Question: District DEI continuing? Answer: DEI is included in the strategic plan (6A). There will be a Cultural Responsiveness training on October 12. Last year the district worked to improve the process for interpretation and translation so that each school had similar offerings. We also did great work on eliminating and replacing SROs with restorative practices and de-escalation procedures and cultural responsiveness training.

Parent Point: New start time at Mesa has been challenging for students and parents. Rob recognized.

Parent Question: Will the district mandate COVID vaccines for children when available? Answer: The state of Colorado doesn't mandate any vaccines and so the district doesn't anticipate mandating COVID vaccines. They will collect data on who is vaccinated. That will begin after vaccines are made available for those under the age of 12.

Parent Question: Has BVSD created a mental health day policy? Answer: No, but Rob likes the idea.

Parent Question: Boulder High has a significant homeless population surrounding the school. What is being done to mitigate negative events for students? Answer: The district is still gathering info and they are working with the Boulder Police Department. It is on their radar.