

BHS Volunteer Committee Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2007

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. Thanks to Leslie Beachwood for taking minutes this month!

Corrections of previous minutes: spelling of Christy Miller, David Nieslanik and Kimberlee Killian. Approved as corrected.

Mary Kay Rodman recognized and thanked for taking on the Staff Appreciation luncheon organizing duties. Deb Weekley will co-chair.

Pitch from a parent: come see the BHS fall play, "You Can't Take it With You," opening next Thursday, November 8.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER: Kevinne Moran

CCC is "more active this fall than in previous years" as judged by a lot of coming and going in the center. However there has been a significant drop in attendance at college visits, which she attributes to no longer being able to publicize them through daily announcements. Many students used to make a last minute decision to attend a visit, if they discovered they had time.

Typical attendance numbers: 8 instead of 20 at the same college's visit last year; 3 instead of 12, etc. CCC is having a difficult time finding ways to get the word out. Keep checking the college/career link on the BHS website, as new visits are added frequently. It's worth it for juniors to come because not all colleges come every year, but probably not sophomores and freshman.

There are many interesting colleges people don't seem to know about, particularly east-coast colleges such as Brandeis University or Emory, which give top scholarships for merit. West-coast kids' chances are maybe better at an east coast school because they may be looking for geographic diversity in the student body. However, she says most students from BHS will end up going to UO or OSU.

Next year Kevinne says she'll have a link to the school website directly from the college visits list.

Kevinne said by freshmen year in high school, parents should be looking at what it costs to send you child to school. She finds many parents are shocked at how expensive it is and have unrealistic ideas of the affordability of state schools. In fact, private school might actually come up with more money for you child.

The more research you do the earlier the better. Take your kids to the all-district meetings on financial aid, scholarships, etc. Kids have no idea and neither do the parents.

As far as applying for scholarships, local scholarships (BHS and Beaverton area) don't start accepting applications until around January. Kids need to be working on college applications right now – especially need to look at the scholarship deadlines for the colleges to which they are applying. Most of your money will come from these.

WUE: "Research is your friend." Go on the website and look around. For example Humboldt State is cheaper to go to than UO or OSU through WUE (Humboldt's strengths are art, outdoor/environmental science), and they will give WUE rates to anyone who is accepted. WUE typically gives you 150% of instate tuition rate but there are usually limited WUE slots at each school. Oftentimes some majors are excluded, but sometimes you can get in and then switch majors later. Be sure to ask if you will still get your WUE tuition rates if you switch.

National College Fair, today (Nov. 2) and tomorrow. Free, good for freshmen and sophomores. Has some excellent free seminars on paying for college.

Even if a kid doesn't plan to go to college he/she needs to be prepared for the workforce, and take challenging classes. Don't cut off your options. Every time a kid comes into the CCC she asks them "what are you doing about college?" Some kids tell her "I'm not college material."

Testing: BYU demands an ACT but other colleges take either ACT or SAT. (Mary Beth said California private colleges prefer the ACT). Kevinne says usually kids do better on one than the other. Retake the one you did best on your senior year if you want to try to better your score. If you take the same test more than three times, colleges begin to wonder. Private colleges will mix and match scores at different sittings of the same test – take the best ACT math score and combine it with the best ACT reading score, etc. Public schools typically take the best score out of a single sitting.

Have your child take the tests right after he/she has studied the material – for instance, if they took pre-calculus as a sophomore, take the SAT or ACT then. That math score might be higher than a later one and you can use it. It usually doesn't pay to take the tests too early (freshman/sophomore), because your child just hasn't learned enough in school to do well.

Colleges will tell you the mid-range of test scores of the kids they accepted last year – if your child's score falls in that range, this tells you if your child is competitive for that school.

Estimating SAT score – put a zero on the end of the PSAT score – this gives you a general idea of how your child might do.

SAT writing test: you can look at your child's essay online along with their scores – read it and you can probably see why they got the score they got. 70% of the writing score is not the essay – it's grammar (multiple choice questions). Major flaws in essays: no critical thinking – they don't have an argument.

Advice: walk into the test with examples in your head: a past success, a past failure, ideas on diversity, challenges you've overcome – odds are one of them will fit the exam topic!

PSAT counts in Junior year as a screening test for National Merit scholarships, but you can take it as a sophomore for practice. Sophomore parents should be notified by mail about the PSAT. National Merit scholarships are prestigious but probably not big money; you can sometimes get merit-based college scholarships based on it, though. It's like AP/IB – it often won't get you college credit but it might get you in the door.

Take the SAT II subject tests right after you take the subject.

Fees: if your child is on free/reduced lunch they can often get a fee waiver for ACT/SAT.

April 23 is this year's date for the in-school, district-paid ACT test for juniors. Parents don't pay for this. Registration is through advisory class at BHS.

Kevinne handed out the SAT/ACT test and registration calendar, an SAT vs. ACT comparison chart, and the Oregon Opportunities booklet on in-state public colleges.

Strategies: some kids go to state schools as an undergrad, saving money because they know they are aiming for a private school for a graduate degree.

Scholarships: the Rotary scholarship requires a short speech – few kids will apply for this because of the speech, so it increases the odds of the kids that do apply.

Student athletes: requires a lot of research and work on the parents' parts to get an athletic scholarship – one woman she knew worked at it nearly full time for two years. Start with the NCAA guide for College-Bound Athletes – look at the GPA requirements. This is sometimes enough to motivate some student athletes to keep their grades up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER Kevinne covered it. Training has been completed and all volunteer spots are filled right now. Connections for the Junior class will start in spring. There are few volunteers right now.

MENTORING: Kimberlee Killian

Training was well-presented. The trainer, Bob Smith, is also a volunteer and will be available to consult. Referrals came from Counseling. All mentor volunteers have been paired up except one boy who is waiting for a male mentor. Kimberlee Killian said the time commitment is every week, on campus, about an hour a week. They are hoping that mentors go into it willing to work with someone that may not succeed, and won't get discouraged by that. Bev in CCC is the liaison for the program.

NEWSLETTER: Kimberlee said it took about two hours. Jane Saunders (last year's chairman) came back to help. Kim says it is a good networking opportunity: you can chat with other parents, teacher and the vice principals often come in; you get an update on what the Booster Club's up to. Next newsletter mailing date is Wednesday November 14 at 10 a.m. in the Community Room. In response to questions from people who can't make Wednesdays, Kim said she would investigate whether another day would be a possibility as far as room availability.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Debbie Stewart

There was an issue with lighting at the Homecoming Dance; bathrooms upstairs went dark. Otherwise it went well. Next dance is Winter Formal, December 15th at the Union Train Station. She will need 12 chaperones for that.

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Brian Curl

Someone asked whether freak dancing was allowed; her son did not feel comfortable at the dance. Mr. Curl said it was not allowed but "we try to manage it when it gets too out of hand." It's too hard to get everyone to completely stop. He understood why people are uncomfortable with it; it can look like "simulated sex". But he said this is a cultural phenomenon, not only local but national and even international, in Europe. Kids seem to need to be in the middle of a big sweaty mob. Concerns are that girls get groped, and that kids could drop from heat exhaustion. They are trying to look at music selection to see if that can influence it.

Homecoming Dance: administration has a list of about six people that have been warned about freak dancing – if there is a second warning they will be asked to leave the dance. They aren't the only ones who are doing it, however. Administration's position is that it will be allowed "to a certain point" but if it gets too graphic they will stop it. Some ideas that have been considered are cutting the dance wristband the first time they are warned, the second time they lose it and are sent home.

One parent suggested another letter be sent home about appropriate behavior at a dance, to give parents and students a way to talk about it.

Other issues: Overall Homecoming had no major issues, and was positive. Tonight is a big football game at Aloha, do or die, if we win we'll be in the playoffs.

Last band competition: tomorrow(Nov 3rd) at OSU

Winter athletics start Monday officially. Monday is also teacher grading day for the first quarter. November is a month of many short weeks.

Football: one parent brought up her disappointment that Beaverton crowd booed the other football team at a game. But Mr. Curl says our crowd's overall this year has been "remarkable." Deb said the Beaverton crowd made a great showing at the Jesuit game – we had "five times" the number of students present and they were all in orange and black.

Back to School Night: parents thought it was awesome. One suggested the administration cut down the initial talk to make more time for parents to spend with their child's teachers.

Fall Play "You Can't Take It With You" opens November 8th, Thursday and runs the 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th and 17th.

November 13-16th is Perspectives Week, celebrating the school's different people and the different places we all come from This is about the fourth year we've done this.

Booster Club Bazaar is Saturday, November 17th from 9-3 pm.

There will be a blood drive Friday, Nov. 30th. It's "a big draw" no pun intended, but you have to be 16 to donate. It is managed by the Health Careers program. Question whether parents could give blood (not answered at the meeting).

Girls Water Polo is first or second in Metro. Need to beat Newberg, which is the powerhouse in water polo.

Advisory Support: Dori Killian came and helped out with this. She was the only person.

Tardy detentions: the numbers are trending down.

Superintendent looking at instructional time: taking parent input if kids are having trouble getting between classes on time. Two parents at the meeting mentioned that a few teachers are keeping students after the bell has rung, and refuse to write hall passes for them.

Smoking cessation program for teens – one parent has access to a program and would like to get the information out to BHS teens – Mr. Curl said the flyers would have to be approved through the district (Maureen Wheeler?). Then BHS administration could look at it.

STAFF APPRECIATION: **Mary Kay Rodman** has left a message with last year's chairman Toni but has not heard back yet. She needs to pick a date, probably Tuesday of the last week before winter break.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE WEBSITE: Randy reported that the previous website person was being paid to update it. Gwen Hollcraft was hosting it along with the Drama website, but doesn't want to do it anymore. It would cost us about \$7 a month to host it somewhere else. We should do this by the end of the calendar year – perhaps could take donations from Volunteer Committee members. Randy has established a g-mail account for the Volunteer Committee.

In answer to a question, Randy said hosting it on the District website would be a problem because there are a lot of hoops to go through to update – they want to be in control of that. Also someone said the District doesn't allow photos on its website, which would be a problem for Drama especially, as it likes to have photos of school plays.

Suggestion: each committee chair should write a job description to pass on to next year's office holder.

GRAD NIGHT: Leslie Beachwood made a pitch for Texas Hold 'Em on November 17th, and mentioned how well the 50/50 raffle did even with competition from Booster Club's raffle, Mentioned my daughter bought the wrong tickets!

CLOTHES CLOSET: Deborah is the runner for November, picking up donations at elementary schools. It is being hosted at the District offices this year but there is limited space. They desperately need new socks and underwear, and boys (teenage) shoes, new not necessary. She and her husband are thinking about renting the Valley Theater in December and offering a free movie in exchange for donations, either December 8th or 15th.

December will be the Principal's Coffee.

Final pitch – told people about Jacob's Auction the next day.