Ed Team Meeting

Thursday, January 13th, 2022

Online

3:10pm - 4:15pm

In attendance: Chris Basten, Ruby Childs, Zachary Fink, Christmas Gainsbrugh, Lauren Harmon, Vanessa Hetzel, Samantha Monk, Mary Sznewaja, TJ Tyagi and Adrienne Williams-McCleskey.

Principal’s Report – Chris

Chris said it’s been a tough time with the pandemic and the Marshall fire. Two families at High Peaks lost their homes. He thanked the Ed Team for jumping in to help the families. Chris said he and the teachers prepared for the worst and hoped for the best on the first day of school. As he walked around school, he said he and the teachers were so excited to see how the kids were just so happy to be together.

Chris said two staff members, Mike Prough and Beth James – were also displaced during the fire and remain out of their homes. HP staff is helping them with lunches and support. Both Mike and Beth have a lot of work to do to make their homes habitable again and are living in hotels. Chris said it would be nice to be able to tell Mike and Beth that they could take all the time they need off work to deal with this but with the teacher shortage, it has been hard to offer this to them. In the last 7 days of school, 8 teachers have been out. HP has been lucky to have amazing subs and tons of flexibility.

Over the holidays, HP made three new hires. On boarding has been slow because BVSD has devoted so much time to the fire. Danielle Sharkan starts Tuesday as the new Gifted and Talented teacher. May Robinson is a new academic tutor and Emily Skala is the new art teacher. Chris is pleased that HP continues to attract very high quality folks.

Treasurer’s Report – Mary

Mary said we are doing great financially. Corporate matches are coming in. Mary mentioned that Ed Team has the funding to fund a para or additional hours for a TAG teacher. She asked the teachers and Chris to let Ed Team know if Ed Team can help in this way, as the funds are there.

New Business:

Teacher Updates/Requests – Teachers

Adrienne said the teachers really appreciated the last Wednesday parent breakfast. Sam said she continues to check on the Help at School volunteer sign up for future monthly breakfasts to make sure they are covered. Vanessa said she thanked the parents for the last breakfast and Lauren volunteered to write thank yous for the breakfasts. Sam is going to see if she can tell the full names of the parents from Help at School and send those to Lauren.

Zach said hopefully HP does not have to go to remote teaching but the Ed Team should prepare for this possibility. He thought last time Ed Team had purchased hotspots for students needing them. Mary did not remember this. Chris said he would expect BVSD to handle any technology and meal needs that may arise if HP goes remote. Zach wanted to make sure students relying on meals get them.

Marshall Fire Fundraiser – Ruby

Ruby and Mary have been collecting donations and gift cards from parents in the school drive thru. Dory is keeping them in the office for us. So far, several have been collected. Ed Team is planning to divide the donations between the two families that lost their homes. Dory will hold the donations for the families to pick up at their convenience.

Zach said the 5th grade parents have been helping out Mike’s family. The staff are helping Beth and Mike with lunches. Zach said their insurance is only covering 2 weeks in a hotel. He said Ed Team should continue to direct people that want to help to make donations to Impact on Education. Ed Team asked Chris if there were any other displaced families that he knew about and he said he did not know any others. Ed Team discussed ways to help Mike and Beth.

Fun Run Date/Planning/T shirts – Sam

Sam said she would like to do the Fun Run similar to last year. She would like to get t shirts in a different color. She asked how the budget works for t shirts. Mary said any money spent on the Fun Run comes out of money raised from the Fun Run. Money from the Fun Run is used for needs at the school and some items that the kids get to determine. Sam is going to get prices for t shirts (short and long sleeve) and bracelets. She’s planning to get the same bouncy slide and purchase popsicles.

The Ed Team is hoping that by the time Fun Run is here parents can be invited to attend and volunteer. Zach mentioned it would be fun to make a big deal and celebration out of being able to come visit the school. Ed Team is hoping this will be possible by then.

Christmas told Sam to talk to Brooke about logistics and a date that will work for her. Ed Team discussed a few possible dates – April 1, 8 or 21. Christmas said the sound system from last year will be available again this year.

Parking Area and Community – Vanessa said some parents had asked about more parking in the side lot. They noticed that teachers/staff park in the front area and there is a sign in the back area saying “staff parking only” where staff do not seem to park. Vanessa asked if the sign could come down or be moved so parents could park there? Parents were hoping this would encourage more community at the school and provide greater opportunity for parents to meet each other, which has been hard during the pandemic. Teachers on Ed Team wondered if BCSIS staff park there since they come later in the day. Chris said he would look into it.

TAG advisor funding/hours –

Ed Team has funding for additional staffing needs if there is a need. Mary asked about Ed Team funding more hours for the new TAG teacher as she knew the old teacher may have been able to use more paid hours. Chris said the TAG teacher is a .5 position that pays $20/hour. He believes the fact that it is a .5 position is an attraction. People like to get back to teaching but also like having the time with their young kids. The Ed Team asked Chris to let us know if we can offer help with additional hours or a para.

5th grade Shakespeare play –

Parents have also asked Ed Team if there is a way to do the Shakespeare play this year. Zach said it may be hard given Mr. Prough’s situation and covid and masks. Mary mentioned that even if parents cannot attend or hear the kids, the kids would still enjoy and benefit from it. Could the performance be outside? Could there be a mini version? Zach was going to talk to Mike about possibilities and options. Zach also said 5th grade will be able to go to Calwood.

Ed Team replacements –

Vanessa let the Ed Team know that Wendy will not be coming back this year. She said she can continue to fill the President role through the rest of the year, especially with Mary’s help. Ed Team discussed filling the positions of President and Treasurer next year. Mary said it would be good to get a Treasurer that could stick with it for several years. Christmas said the new art teacher can replace Jessica’s departure from Ed Team. Ed Team talked about how to attract parents to Ed Team and asked teachers to send us any prospects. Adrienne said hopefully lots of new HP parents that have not been able to be involved during covid will welcome the opportunity to volunteer for the school.

Adjourn – We ran out of time and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday February 3, 2022