



HIGH PEAKS EDUCATIONAL GROUP

Meeting Name: March 2025 Meeting

Meeting Date: March 6, 2025

Meeting time: 3:10 pm

Meeting location: High Peaks Elementary School Art Room

Roll Call

Name	Role	Email	Present
Adriana Tower	5 th Grade Parent Rep	adriana.l.tower@gmail.com	
Amber Grantham	IT & Comms	amber.maggio@gmail.com	✓
Angeeneh Iyengar	4 th Grade Parent Rep	angeeneh@gmail.com	✓
Chris Basten	Principal	christopher.basten@bvsd.org	✓
Christine Parachoniak	Parent	Christine.parachoniak@gmail.com	✓
Emily France	Parent	emilycfrance@gmail.com	
Emily Skodras	Teacher Co-Chair	emily.skodras@bvsd.org	✓
Erica Stone	Parent Co-Chair	ericalstone3@gmail.com	✓
Faith Ayles	Parent	Faithayles@gmail.com	
Gaya Vinay	Fundraising Chair	gayathri.vinay@gmail.com	✓
Giordana Dahlinghaus	K Parent Rep	gmbysyrinx@gmail.com	✓
Janani Vasudevan	Treasurer	jananivasu@gmail.com	✓
Joanna Comeau	2 nd /3 rd Teacher Rep	joanna.comeau@bvsd.org	
Joni Wada	Parent	joniw1616@gmail.com	
Julie Stern	Parent	jdstern8@gmail.com	✓
Kristine Garton	2 nd Grade Parent Rep	kristine.garton@gmail.com	✓
Lauren Harmon	K/1 st Teacher Rep	Lauren.harmon@bvsd.org	✓
Leah Cousin	Parent	lbiber@gmail.com	
Mamta Saxman	DAC Committee Rep	Mamta.Saxman@gmail.com	✓
Marisa Budwick	SAC Committee Rep	marisabudwick@yahoo.com	
Paola Ledesma	4 th Grade Parent Rep	paolamledesma@gmail.com	✓
Sam Grigsby	4 th Grade Parent Rep	samanthamonk@yahoo.com	✓
Sara Weatherly	Specials Rep	sara.weatherley@bvsd.org	
Sieana Johnson	Parent	sieanajohnson@gmail.com	✓
Valerie Hibl	K/1 st Teacher Rep	valerie.hibl@bvsd.org	
Zach Fink	4 th /5 th Grade Teacher Rep	Zachary.fink@bvsd.org	

1. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes (*Amber*)

- The voting members approved the February 2025 meeting minutes.

2. General Discussion

- Tech Event Feedback:** Positive feedback received from parents regarding the tech event hosted by High Peaks last month.



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- **Destination Imagination:** Congratulations to the Destination Imagination team for advancing to the State competition!
 - **Cross Country Running Program:** The Cross-Country program being discussed for High Peaks/BCSIS has been deferred until next year.
 - **School Board Member Meeting:** Several school board members will be at Neptune Mountaineering on Saturday, March 8, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. All are welcome to stop by and engage in discussion.
 - **Literacy Staffing Update**
 - Mrs. Cole’s position was reduced from 0.5 FTE to 0.25 FTE this year, with the district cutting her time to share with Monarch School in Louisville.
 - Mrs. Cole’s current capacity allows her to only support 3 reading groups, and there is concern over the lack of consistent support for vulnerable readers, especially in Kindergarten and lower grades where literacy intervention is so critical.
 - The Ed Team agrees on the need for 0.5 FTE minimum Literacy Support at High Peaks.
 - Gaya will draft a letter urging BVSD to provide consistent 0.5 FTE support at all schools.
 - **2025-26 School Year:**
 - Erica reserved the shade space at the school for the Fall Popsicle Palooza.
 - Check if the volunteer who manages the school supply order is still available.
 - A new volunteer is needed to run the Math Olympiad if we choose to renew it.
 - **Succession Planning:**
 - **Garden to Table:** Leah needs to train a successor for next year, as it will be her final year. Gaya will see if her friend is interested in helping.
 - **Co-Chair:** Giordana will serve as co-chair.
 - **Treasurer:** Janani will take over the Treasurer responsibilities.
 - **IT/Communications:** Emily will take over this role.
 - **Reps for K, 1st, and 2nd Grades:** We need to get the word out for these positions.
 - **Current Reps:** Current reps will advance to the next grade level.
 - **High Peaks DPC Rep:** We need a new rep, possibly Giordana’s husband.
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3. Principal's Report (*Chris*)

- **Impact Award:** The Impact Award winner will be announced on April 30. The school would like the Ed Team to purchase tickets for interested teachers. Tickets are approximately \$20 each.
 - Gaya will inquire about free or discounted tickets.
 - **World Heritage Week:** Last week, Mrs. Christmas and others arranged a successful all-school assembly. Kita coordinated a World Heritage Day event with over 100 volunteers representing various countries. This is such a favorite event for the children.
 - **Upcoming Core Knowledge Events:**
 - **3rd Grade:** Cow eye dissection (March 7).
 - **2nd Grade:** Ellis Island event.
 - **1st Grade:** Space Museum event.
 - **5th Grade:** Shakespeare Play (March 19).
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4. District Committee Updates

- **SAC:** No updates.
 - **DAC (*Mamta*):**
 - There is uncertainty regarding funding, especially student count day funds, which could vary significantly (~\$3M - \$9M difference).
 - Three board seats are opening, leading to turnover.
 - Calendar planning for the 2025-2026 school year: The district is asking if parents and staff prefer to have Fridays and Mondays off or Mondays and Tuesdays off. Feedback should be sent to Mamta.
 - The new BVSD data dashboard is set to be revealed on March 14.
 - **DPC:** No updates.
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5. High Peaks Ed Team Committee Updates

- **Finance (*Janani*):**
 - Financial report: A draft has been emailed, and updates will be made regularly. Please refer to the most recent version.
 - **Surplus Funds (*Emily*):**
 - Teachers have submitted proposals for how to spend the surplus funds, and all requests were shared and voted on internally.
 - Those proposals who got teacher approval have been collated into a Google form, and all regular Ed Team members are encouraged to vote by 5 PM tomorrow (3/7/25)
 - Teachers should work with Dory and Janani for tax-free purchases if their items are approved.



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- **Fundraising (Gaya):**
 - **Yearbook Sales:** Yearbooks are on sale for \$25.
 - **Rockies Night:** Event on April 5. A portion of proceeds will benefit High Peaks.
 - **Fun Run:** Brooke is planning to have all students run on a larger course. Fun Run will likely be later in the day and include all students running at the same time. Erica was able to secure sponsorship from Scratch with drinks and snacks. Brooke is also working to reserve Chip (CU Buffs) as a mascot.

 - **Spirit/Teacher Appreciation:**
 - **1st Grade Breakfast:** Scheduled for March. Erin will coordinate with parents for catering and food donations.
 - **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Scheduled for May 8-10. Teachers would like to see the flower giveaway event again. Other ideas to show appreciation for teachers are encouraged.
 - **5th Grade Continuation Celebration:** Discussion underway; a pool party is being considered.

 - **Challenge Committee:** No updates.

 - **Yearbook (Giordana):**
 - Yearbooks are now on sale.
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6. Old Business / Outstanding To-Do's

- Fundraising platform demo.
- Digital signage discussion.
- Winter parking lot and snowplowing concerns.