

HIGH PEAKS EDUCATIONAL GROUP

**Meeting Name:** Fall 2024 Meeting

**Meeting Date:** November 7, 2024

**Meeting time:** 3:10 pm

**Meeting location:** High Peaks Elementary School Art Room

**Roll Call**

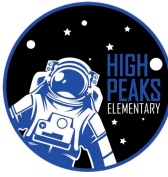
First, Last Name	Role	Email	Present
Erica Stone	Parent Co-Chair	<a href="mailto:ericalstone3@gmail.com">ericalstone3@gmail.com</a>	✓
Valerie Hibl	Teacher Co-Chair (temp)	<a href="mailto:valerie.hibl@bvsd.org">valerie.hibl@bvsd.org</a>	
Adriana Tower	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:adriana.l.tower@gmail.com">adriana.l.tower@gmail.com</a>	✓
Amber Grantham	IT & Comms	<a href="mailto:amber.maggio@gmail.com">amber.maggio@gmail.com</a>	✓
Kristine Garton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:kristine.garton@gmail.com">kristine.garton@gmail.com</a>	✓
Giordana Dahlinghaus	K Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:gmb syrinx@gmail.com">gmb syrinx@gmail.com</a>	✓
Janani Vasudevan	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jananivasu@gmail.com">jananivasu@gmail.com</a>	✓
Angeeneh Iyengar	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:angeeneh@gmail.com">angeeneh@gmail.com</a>	✓
Sieana Johnson	Parent	<a href="mailto:sieanajohnson@gmail.com">sieanajohnson@gmail.com</a>	✓
Joanna Comeau	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Teacher Rep	<a href="mailto:joanna.comeau@bvsd.org">joanna.comeau@bvsd.org</a>	✓
Lauren Harmon	K/1 <sup>st</sup> Teacher Rep	<a href="mailto:Lauren.harmon@bvsd.org">Lauren.harmon@bvsd.org</a>	✓
Chris Basten	Principal	<a href="mailto:christopher.basten@bvsd.org">christopher.basten@bvsd.org</a>	✓
Zach Fink	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Rep	<a href="mailto:Zachary.fink@bvsd.org">Zachary.fink@bvsd.org</a>	✓
Faith Ayles	Parent	<a href="mailto:Faithayles@gmail.com">Faithayles@gmail.com</a>	
Joni Wada	Parent	<a href="mailto:joniw1616@gmail.com">joniw1616@gmail.com</a>	✓
Sam Grigsby	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:samanthamonk@yahoo.com">samanthamonk@yahoo.com</a>	✓
Paola Ledesma	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Rep	<a href="mailto:paolamledesma@gmail.com">paolamledesma@gmail.com</a>	✓
Julie Stern	Parent	<a href="mailto:jdstern8@gmail.com">jdstern8@gmail.com</a>	
Leah Cousin	Parent	<a href="mailto:lbiber@gmail.com">lbiber@gmail.com</a>	✓
Gaya Vinay	Fundraising Chair	<a href="mailto:gayathri.vinay@gmail.com">gayathri.vinay@gmail.com</a>	✓
Emily Skodras	Teacher Co-Chair	<a href="mailto:emily.skodras@bvsd.org">emily.skodras@bvsd.org</a>	✓
Sara Weatherly	Specials Rep	<a href="mailto:sara.weatherley@bvsd.org">sara.weatherley@bvsd.org</a>	✓

**Approval of Last Meetings Minutes (Amber)**

✓ **The voting members voted to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes.**

**New Business**

- Welcome back, Emily! Thank you, Valerie – we appreciate your service and enjoy your extra hour of freedom!
- **Library Update (Sara)**
  - PebbleGo Software is used for grades K-3 and previously subsidized by the Ed Team. This software is great for second language learning and has tabs (i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recently used it for their Rome project). It renews in December 2024 at approximately \$1,060. Sara would like to renew it, and it was confirmed this money is in the budget and is ok to renew.



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- Battle of the Books (BoB) is an annual BVSD literacy event. The objective is to expose kids to new books, and then answer questions for comprehension and in a collaboration learning environment.
  - Parents volunteers lead a team of 5 kids. This gives it more of a “book club” feel and helps readers of every level. If there aren’t enough parent volunteers, some CU literacy students have stepped in to lead the groups which worked ok last year.
  - There are more books for 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year, so they will start reading earlier, and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade will start after Thanksgiving.
  - Sara is looking for a parent volunteer to help purchase the books from the bookstore and help with some other things.
- ❖ **Action Items: Sam will add a job on Help at Schools to support Sara getting a volunteer.**
- Garden to Table (*Leah*)
  - Growing season just ended. All grades were included. Things are going well with BVSD since they fixed the pesticide issue in the spring.
  - The Garden To Table fee is due Dec 1<sup>st</sup> (\$2,500). This money is in the budget and should be renewed.
  - ❖ **Action Items: Amber will add a page on the Ed Team website to bring more visibility to the program. Chris will add Garden To Table as a talking point in the Open Enrollment tours.**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Expenses (*Amber/Erica*)
  - Costs for several 5th-grade activities, including the annual Calwood trip, graduation, and band/orchestra, have increased. Additionally, new graduation caps will need to be purchased soon, as the old green caps were given away last year due to the change to a new school color and mascot. Some 5th-grade parents have expressed financial hardship to their teachers.
  - The Ed Team has not adjusted the 5th-grade budget to account for these rising costs.
  - The 5th-grade graduation party lacks a standardized budget. In the past, parents covered costs or used connections to secure a venue (i.e. Elks Club members, Meadows Pool membership, etc.) Standardizing a budget and plan for graduation party would ensure all students can participate in the same celebration at school.
  - Amber has secured a location for this year’s 5<sup>th</sup> grade party, but it is likely that location event rental will need to be included moving forward.
- ✓ **The voting members approved to purchase graduation caps.**
- ✓ **The Ed Team will cover shortages for Calwood to ensure all 5<sup>th</sup> graders who want to attend can.**
- New Family Welcome Packets (*Erica*)
  - We’ve had several new students join High Peaks and we’d like provide them with a Welcome Packet. It would include a High Peaks T-shirt, a welcome letter, from the Ed Team, etc.
  - Mr. Basten supports this idea and suggested Shelly in the office can help coordinate it.
  - ❖ **Action Items: Erica will work with Shelly when there is a new student to get them a Welcome Packet.**



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- Activities for Late Start Wednesdays (*Emily*)
  - The Paras who supervise kids on late start days have expressed they don't have any activities for the kids who get dropped off early. These are different from SAC-supervised kids.
  - ❖ **Action Items: Emily to get a list of gently used items that would be good to collect.**
  
- KH Policy is under discussion (*Gaya*)
  - The KH Policy is a policy that says any money from a PTO given to the school to pay for personnel (i.e. Para-professionals) is subject to a 10% fee to go into an equity fund which goes back to Title 1 schools.
  - A member of the school board is questioning if 10% is enough and equitable, and the school board is looking at this policy at the next board meeting in November. Some schools raise a lot more money than other schools.
  - This could result in the school board removing fundraising efforts at a school level.
  - The Ed Team is taking the stance that this should not be changed. Gaya is working with other Fundraising Chairs to draft a letter to the school board and encouraging other parents to write to the board.
  
- Kindergarten Thankfulness Food Drive (*Lauren*)
  - Kinder classes are collecting food for their annual thanksgiving food drive. Donations can be left in the bin at the school for the next two weeks.
  - ❖ **Action Items: Parent Reps should remind parents to bring in items in the Whats App chats.**

### Principal's Report (*Chris*)

- BVSD Showcase was a success. There was non-stop traffic all night at the High Peaks booth.
- Fall Festival was a success with lots of parents and kids showing up. Everyone enjoyed the event earlier in the year with better weather.
- School conferences were successful. Teachers worked late into the night to get through all the conferences and they are thankful to the Ed Team provided meals and the parent-provided meals.
- Halloween parade was a fun event. Ms. Graham did a great job.
- The first Open Enrollment Talk & Tour was today. It was likely one of the biggest events with over 40 people attending to learn about High Peaks.

### District Committee Updates

- District Parent Council (DPC) (*Amber*)
  - Feedback was collected on the cell phone ban, and they are ready to implement the policy in January. They are looking at magnetic bags that students can put their cell phone in and lock the bag when they arrive at school and unlock when they leave. This is mostly for high school students in some schools. Many schools are doing a good job banning phones without bags.



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- The BVSD IT department has introduced software called Magic School, which is powered by ChatGPT. It's better to use because the data is secure and private. There is a component for teachers and students to use.
- The district is still focusing on declining enrollment, and they presented a list of schools at risk for closure in the next 1, 3, and 5 years. High Peaks & BCSIS are not on the radar.
- There is a committee that will be spinning up in the next few weeks to discuss elementary math curriculum. They are looking for volunteers to help.

### Committee Updates

- **Finance** (*Janani*)

- See financials for specific information
- Matching and miscellaneous donations from Giving Tree is still coming in.
- Insurance renewal is now due for approximately \$380. It is confirmed that it should be paid.
- There is a high amount of money in our account and it is suggested to do a \$40,000 CD with that balance to start earning interest.

✓ **The voting members voted to move the funds into a CD.**

- New request for software *Vocab.com* for 5<sup>th</sup> grade (*Erica*)
  - One teacher is using it, and they would like to provide it to both classes. It might be of interest to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to have it, also, as it supports the new IXL curriculum.
  - The cost of the software is \$160/year for 1 teacher to have 30 licenses.
- ❖ **Action Items:** *Emily will check with all teachers to see if they are interested in this software, too.*

✓ **The voting members approved to purchase this software for all 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.**

- **Fundraising** (*Gaya*)

- Next week is DineOut at ShakeShack. There is a code to enter at checkout and a portion of the income is donated back to High Peaks. A flyer went out in this week's Thursday folders.
- ❖ **Action Items:** *Parent Reps should remind their parents in the What's App chat.*

- **Spirit/Teacher Appreciation** (*Adriana/Sam*)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Breakfast (*Sam*)
  - Scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. Flyers went out to 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents last week.
  - Collecting donations for catering as well as food items.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade will host breakfast for teachers in December.

- **Challenge Committee**

- STEM (*Erica for AA/QC*)
  - The topics have been selected – Muggle Magic: the Science of Harry Potter (4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> grades) and Polar Connections (K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades). This will be hosted on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.



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- STEM Fair and Parent Presentations will be on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Alaina is looking for volunteers to help with setup/cleanup after the event. There is a help at schools event to sign up.
- **Yearbook** (*Giordana*)
  - Things are going well with parents uploading pictures to the yearbook. We are ready to start fundraising for the yearbooks at any time.
  - We will wait until the new year to start discussing selling yearbooks.
- **Open Enrollment** (*Erica*)
  - The next Talk & Tour is Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00-11:00 am. We would like 4 parent volunteers.
  - Today there were 40+ parents in attendance. Event went smoothly.

#### **Old Business/Outstanding To-Do's**

- Ninja Warriors Field Day
- Fundraising Platform Demo
- Digital Signage Discussion
- Winter Parking Lot/Snowplowing