

Birchwood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023

Called to order at 6:00 pm

Attendees: David Clinton, Michael Thomas, Joseph Smiley, Wendy Banner, Julie Syria, Sarah Thompson, Liz Silvernale, Allen McLeod, Andrea Harding, Rebecca Springhill

Principles Report - Mr. Thomas

Fastbridge testing trends and growth

All grades are showing aggressive growth in reading and math.

Snow Day Recovery Plans – have to make up 5 days. There were 7 snow days total, ASD allows for 2 per year. The 24th will now be a student day and the half days scheduled for parent teacher conferences will now be full days. The remaining time will be made up of 30 minutes added to each school day from January 30 - March 9. The 30 minutes will be used as a study hall for homework and additional specialist classes including 2 PE, 2 Library, 2 Art/Health, and 1 Music.

Busses have been running late since the reinstatement of bus service. Mr. Thomas said he has talked to Transportation about it, and they will be looking into why the busses are so late and try to improve for the 2 Gen Ed busses we have at Birchwood.

Standard Operating Procedures are being worked on now by the staff and will be presented at the next meeting.

Enrollment

213 total students

ABC 187

No virtual students

Life skills went up by 2.

Pre-K decreased by 1.

Really the only way to increase our enrollment is for families to move into the neighborhood school area so that we can gain another teacher. We would need about 20 more students for ASD to allocate us an additional teacher. ASD doesn't want us to advocate for kids to move from one school to another because it would encourage competitiveness between schools. We are still an alternative program in a "neighborhood school".

BWABC lottery is open, but if there are no spaces left according to the projections, none of them will be approved. Kindergarten parents cannot be notified of acceptance until one week before kindergarten starts.

March meeting we will look at future staffing with updates on teachers who will be retained next year and any other forecasted staffing changes. Final report on staffing will be presented in May.

Ms. Banner asked if parents could go to ASD to demand that they open the lottery, will that be helpful? How can we convince ASD that we don't want our school to close because of numbers? How can we grow our school without being allowed to recruit new students? It probably would be helpful if parents who wanted their kids to go to BWABC wrote ASD asking them to allow their children to attend.

School closure update – our school is no longer scheduled for possible closure next year. Shifting 6th grade to middle school will change the dynamics of elementary schools too, so ASD needs time to evaluate the affects.

Mr. Olson is considering adding a swimming unit to PE. Would the BAC support him bringing the kids to CHS for swimming lessons. Would parents allow their children to participate in a swimming program and be willing to volunteer? Can we put together a survey for the parents to get their input? Liz volunteered to create a questionnaire. PTA is willing to pay for the cost of the swimming program.

PTA Report:

Friday Feb 3 is Winter Fun Night.

March 24 is Book Fair

Curriculum update – keep using Saxon Math until we are out of materials and can't buy any more. We have enough to last until 2030. We also received permission to make copies of the books if necessary. They are discontinuing selling the program because not enough demand. Saxon is not fully common core aligned so a lot of districts can't buy it anymore.

The BAC By-laws need to be reviewed. Created a by-laws committee of Allen McLeod and Joseph Smiley. Liz will email them the digital version of the most recently updated by-laws for review.

Elections will need to be held in April and we need to create an elections committee. Find out who wants to run for officer positions and the BAC will vote those members into those positions. Voting in April

Dave has been with BAC for 3 years as a member and President this year so he cannot fill an officer position.

The parent guardian body will need to vote in all of the appointed (walk-on) members.

In May we will need to reinstall them as voting members according to the by-laws.

Elections Committee – Drea Harding and Liz Silvernale

Will gather who wants to be in which position and facilitate a member vote for the officer positions.

Awards – we ordered and received math pins and are good on all the other awards materials.

Next BAC will be on 3/23/22

Adjournment 7:16