

BES PTO Quarterly Meeting

Site Council Meeting

November 4, 2020

Site Council Updates:

BESPC by Dr. Ehling-Gwin

BESIC:

We have successfully made it through our first quarter of school under COVID restrictions with a few quarantines but no school shutdowns. Work is underway to prepare for the second semester. District parents were asked to complete a survey about their plans for their students. A majority of those responding would like to continue in the current model (elementary students on-site M-F with a remote option) through the end of the school year. Our USD 348 Board of Education will be reviewing survey data and gathering additional input prior to making a decision at their Nov. 16 board meeting.

Our current numbers in each option are:

On-Site

3rd grade 54

4th grade 53

5th grade 59

Total 166

Remote

3rd grade 30

4th grade 37

5th grade 45

Total 112

On-site class sizes range from 13-16 students. The current DGCO recommended size for in-person operations is 17 or fewer. That number could be impacted if the number of remote-to-on-site students shifts in either direction at the semester change.

BESIC students participated in a mock election today. Each student had the opportunity to vote using a student-friendly version of the adult DGCO ballot. Students voted during specials time today. Results will be made available to students on Wednesday morning. We want to reinforce civic responsibility and duty in our students so that voting becomes a lifelong activity for them.

Parents will be seeing our new standards-based progress reports next week. A committee of our teachers and support staff have been working on this transition for a few years, and it is ready to roll out for the first quarter. The biggest notable difference is the absence of letter grades. Check out the parent guide on standards-based grading here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16K4x7tzDRMaGvDwIE2kSwC3Em7t2oykKKI2mscaWg74/edit>. There are a few quick videos that summarize the process well.

On behalf of our staff and students, I would like to thank our BES PTO for continuing to support our schools. It was wonderful to be able to have our Bullpup Stroll last week. Even though there were some restrictions, students said it felt a little bit like the "old days." Thank you, too, for supporting our staff with grants. These funds are always put to good use for our students.

As always, I welcome input on our school policies, operations, curriculum, etc.

Parents as Teachers/STAR

Members of Primary Center Site Council & PTO,

I am happy to inform you that our Baldwin City STAR/Parents as Teachers program has met the criteria to receive endorsement from the Parents as Teachers National Center as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate. Last year, program staff worked many hours to complete a self-study for this process. Blue Ribbon Affiliates are exemplary programs, delivering highest quality services to children and families. To receive endorsement, affiliates must be meeting at least 75% of 100 quality indicators. I am

pleased to report our program met 95% of the indicators. The process confirms that we are meeting

Parents as Teachers' standards of fidelity and quality. Our program was able to achieve this high level

recognition because of the outstanding staff we have and the support we receive from our district administration, school board, and community. We are confident that our program helps prepare families and students for entry into the school system and be ready to learn when they arrive. The financial commitment to our program by USD #348 and this PTO are indicators of the value this district has for early learning, and we thank you for that.

Annually, at the National PAT Conference, recipients of the Blue Ribbon recognition are honored. This

conference is scheduled to be in Baltimore next October. We are hopeful that staff will be able to attend this conference as a reward for hard work and the quality of service provide to the community.

As a review of our program, Parents as Teachers promotes early learning, development and health of

young children by supporting and engaging parents and caregivers. Our program helps detect developmental delays early, prevent child abuse, promote literacy and reading, prepare children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn, and increase parent involvement with school. We believe families are their child's first, and most important, teacher. The PAT curriculum transforms research into real-life resources and tools for families. Our focus is on children prenatally to age six and we currently are

serving 50 community families and 79 children. We have a staff of 3 parent educators and are housed

in the Primary Center. The COVID-19 health pandemic has altered our services some by requiring video or telephone visits and family events have had to be restructured, however we continue to have

strong participation from families. While some programs in the state have experienced a decrease in enrollment, we have actually added additional families. Families in our community are experiencing a rise in stress and are in need of increased support during the past months.

We would love to have you attend one of our family events to see STAR/PAT in action. We are

partnering with the Baldwin City Public Library to host Story Strolls this year, allowing families to read

a book in a new way. We have have a fun one coming up on November 4 th to celebrate Kansas Reads

to Preschoolers Week. Join us in Sullivan Square in downtown Baldwin from 9:30-10:30am or 4:00-

5:00pm. You can also find out about other program activities by checking out our FaceBook page at

Baldwin STAR/Parents as Teachers.

Thank you, again, for your continued support for our program.

Old Business:

Bullpup Stroll

New Business:

Teacher Meal for Conferences – Sandwich Trays, fruit, chips and drinks. Jason's deli \$7.

Book Fair – see info from Jill Boyle.

Winter Workshop?

Teacher treat week or meal for the holidays.

Teacher grants.