



Visual and Performing Arts Committee Notes March 4, 2014

Committee Members

Karen Benson	Kirstin Doud	Andy Marshall	Laura Smith
Charisse Berner	Tom Gresham	Terri McKee	Alison Terry
Mike Copland	Teri Grimes	Keith Schacht	Ryan Williams
Jeff Coulter	Carolyn Heywood	Mark Schlichting	Marilyn Grams - notes
AnnMarie DeCollibus	Tom Kunesh	Travis Sipher	

Welcome and Review of Last Meeting's Minutes

Committee members introduced themselves around the room.

Minutes from February 18th were distributed and reviewed. The committee felt that the minutes accurately captured the issues they brought forward and that the issues fell into five categories:

- Need for Stronger Focus on Arts as Core Program
- Scheduling Issues
- Feeder Programs Needs/Issues
- Budget/Resource Needs/Issues
- Fees

There was discussion and clarifying questions. Mike said that the goal of the district is for students not to pay additional fees or incur costs for anything considered part of our core program of instruction. He also pointed out the connections in *The Bellingham Promise* and the tie to visual and performing arts. He thanked the members that presented the state of the district at the last meeting.

Reviewed Remaining Meeting Schedule

- March 4: Exploring Dimensions of "Best Examples" in VPA programs experiences located in other schools/districts
- March 18: Comparing BSD VPA offerings/experiences to those revealed in the exploration of "Best Examples." Similarities and differences.
- March 25: Develop/Design programmatic direction/advice for the superintendent to guide decision-making in VPA over the next 3-5 years.
- *Meeting 5: (TBD if needed)*

Exploration of High Quality VPA Programs

Four committee members researched information in various areas of the arts and shared their findings with the group.

- AnnMarie DeCollibus – Visual Arts – Various Other States
- Kirstin Doud – Music – 4th – 12th Grade Schedules
- Teri Grimes – Drama – High School Schedules/Staffing
- Andy Marshall – Music – High School Schedules

There was group discussion and clarifying questions about schedules, length of periods, number of periods a day, arts coordinators, arts as core, local community arts groups, music/art classes in elementary school, strong feeder programs, student driven schedules, magnet class/schools, frequency of classes, etc.

Reading Discussion

The committee was asked to individually prioritize the readings that were provided at the last meeting, or any other program information they brought, and answer the question: What elements of high quality programs in visual and performing arts stand out as critical for the Bellingham Schools to consider in planning the future of our programs?

The committee then moved into groups of three to share their lists and find common themes critical for planning future programs.

Finally the committee worked in groups of six to combine their common themes and share out. Common themes were:

- Include the arts in school budgets and leverage sustainable funding.
- Develop a formalized K-12 curriculum.
 - Equity among all arts disciplines at every school and every level.
- Create a district-wide mission statement.
- Enhance our partnerships with community organizations.
- Central arts coordinator/team to keep an eye on the big picture.
 - Sharing of staff and physical resources.
- Highly qualified arts instructors.
- Integrate the arts into the curriculum.
- The arts are CORE.
 - Boosts literacy, creative and critical thinking, motivates students and keeps them connected.
- Quality formative and relevant assessments (supported by research).
- Flexible master scheduling that allows time, scope, and sequence.
- Sequential instruction across all four arts disciplines by highly qualified arts instructors.
- Provide adequate and reliable resources and leadership to ensure high quality and equitable arts program.
 - Neighborhood should not determine opportunity.
- Integration of the arts across content areas, and across our community.
- Articulated PreK-12 program to create forward academic sequential learning.
- Quality student learning by providing sufficient time, space, and resources.
- Establish guidelines for equitable funding levels and staffing requirements to fully support arts education.
- Adopt flexible schedules that provide time for arts education and allows student choice (7 or 8 period day).
- District level VPA director.
- Regularly report growth in arts education and share information.
- Highly qualified, inspiring teachers.

The committee reviewed and discussed the common themes.

Next Meeting Preparation

- Create a vision for what the end game looks like, build a progression for getting there – keeping in mind the realities of schedules, budgets, timelines – and make a recommendation to the superintendent. Mike will work with Charisse and Kirstin to create a set of principles from each group list for the next meeting.
- Committee members should bring current school master schedules for discussion to the next meeting.
- Charisse will be working on a drop-box for the committee to share documents.

Local Arts Opportunities

- Whatcom County High School Student Art at Jansen Art Center, March 6-27, 2014, Lynden.

- Oklahoma Stage Performances, Bellingham High School, March 6-16.
- March is “Music in our Schools” Month – San Juan Music Educators Association Festival at WWU.
- Central City Strings Concert featuring Kulshan and Whatcom Middle Schools, Bellingham High School at Bellingham High School, March 5.
- Northside Strings Concert featuring Shuksan and Whatcom Middle Schools and Squalicum High School at Squalicum High School, March 12.
- Choral Contest Preview Concert at Bellingham High School, March 18.
- Shuksan Middle School Orchestra Concert at Shuksan Middle School, March 19.
- Community performance of the San Juan Music Educators Association Choir Festival at Sehome High School, March 22.
- Squalicum High School Band and Orchestra Concert at Squalicum High School, March 24.
- Whatcom Middle School Orchestra Concert at Whatcom Middle School, March 25.
- Sehome Orchestra Spring Concert at Sehome High School, March 25.
- Bellingham High School Orchestra Festival Concert at Bellingham High School, March 26.
- Bellingham High School Band Winter Festival Preview Concert at Bellingham High School, March 27.
- SJMEA Junior Large Group Orchestra Festival at Whatcom Middle School, March 27.
- Lemonade performance at Roosevelt Elementary School, March 26.
- Community Food Co-op, March 15, 2% of all sales go to grants for elementary music opportunities.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2014, 4:00-7:00, Conference Room 205