From Kita Murdock <kita.murdock@bvsd.org>
Subject **Ed Team thoughts**
To Christopher Basten <christopher.basten@bvsd.org>
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Hi Chris,

Thanks for meeting last week to discuss the Ed Team meetings. We just have one more this year, so I'm more thinking of next year when I think about how we could change it.

I was reflecting on our discussion and thinking about how all other committees I've been on (Leadership, Student Council, Happiness, etc.) have all been led with positivity and assumed shared positive intentions. Instead, I leave the Ed Team meetings feeling like people in them are arguing and competing with each other, rather than sharing an enthusiastic vision of a shared mission. There are often some pointed comments, and there have been comments about specific teachers and their spending that felt really uncomfortable. Sometimes the tone feels aggressive and accusatory, rather than supportive.

I don't know exactly how to change that, but here were a couple of ideas I had for next year:

1. **Start the year by setting an Ed Team intention for the year. "We are here to support students and teachers and the High Peaks community." A reminder that we are all there with good intentions and the shared goal of supporting the students.**
2. **Start the year with a discussion around expectations and norms at an Ed Team meeting.**
3. **Start each meeting with a quick gratitude/appreciation shout out. We could highlight the needs being met, and make sure to thank Ed Team parents specifically for things they have done.**
4. **Start each meeting with introducing ourselves and our roles (whether parent or faculty) so that everyone feels welcome and included in some capacity. (Julie had this idea, which I think is great, after noticing that some new people attended and then never came back.)**

I'd love to get your thoughts on these. Maybe we could discuss sometime this week?

Also, my takeaways from reading the by laws:
- There need to be at least 3 parents and 3 faculty there to hold a meeting
- There should be 5 parents on the board of directors (co-chair, secretary, treasurer, K-2 parent rep, 3-5 parent rep)
- There should be 5 faculty members on the board of directors (co-chair, K-1 teacher, 2-3 teacher, 3-5 teacher, co-chair elect)
- There are a bunch of sub committees in the by laws, including a spirit committee (designed to foster a sense of community) and a committee to support Core Knowledge materials and I'm not sure how much it matters if we have those or not?

Thanks for being open to this discussion! :)

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"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall