

BVRPA

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Katie Shore, Shaune-Marie Berg, Melinda O’Leary, Bill Reyelt, Diane Gwin, Barrie Silk, Bonnie Sherman, Caroline Stone, Daniel Lieman, Danielle Meagher, Debbie Berger, Emily Born, Erica Recht, Grace Muwina, Jennifer Litman, Jennifer Schaffer, Joanne Melikian-Cate, Joy Burke, Katerina Makatouni-Liodakis, Keisha Burgess, Kelley Heyworth, Kelly Davidson, Lorraine Moyo, Lynn Youngen, Marni Centor, Monica Cost, Raymonde Alcindor, Rebecca Scott, Sarah Zimman, Shannon Falkson, Sharon Perkins-Alen, Stephanie Fletcher, Susan Smith, Tricia Thomson

WELCOME: Melinda O’Leary, PA Co-Chair

WHAT IS THE BVR PARENT ASSOCIATION? Shaune-Marie Berg, PA Co-Chair

- Every Beaver parent and caregiver is automatically a member of the BVR PA.
- Core values: Communication, Collaboration, Compassion, Community. Goal is threefold: support faculty and administration, connect parents and caregivers, and enhance the experience of our students at BVR.
- Executive Committee meets every month and works closely with BVR administration to foster a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community for all Beaver families by providing educational and social opportunities.
- We are a very welcoming community: all are invited to attend or volunteer at any event, no matter how much time you have to give. Reach out to anyone on the Executive Committee or Grade Reps with any questions or to get involved.
- Communication is by email. General info comes from BVR PA email account. Specific info about events, volunteering, etc. comes from your grade reps, who are a critical part of the Executive Committee. Grade Reps can be your first point of contact with any issues or questions.
- Restructured PA this year. Each engagement has a chair or co-chairs, which enables us to engage more volunteers.
- Thank you to Katie Shore of the Beaver Philanthropy + Engagement Office for her support and hard work behind the scenes!

INTRODUCTION OF BEAVER PA GRADE REPS: Shaune-Marie Berg, PA Co-Chair

- Grade 6: [Emily Born](#), [Rosaleah Brown](#), [Joy Burke](#)
- Grade 7: [Monique Appleton](#), [Rebecca Scott](#)
- Grade 8: [Bonnie Sherman](#) ‘93, [Steffani Boudreau](#), [Stacey Lazar](#)
- Grade 9: [Raymonde Alcindor](#), [Debbie Berger](#), [Jessica Scherer](#)
- Grade 10: [Barrie Silk](#), [Joanne Melikian-Cate](#)
- Grade 11: [Grace Muwina](#), [Keisha Burgess](#)
- Grade 12: [Stephanie Fletcher](#), [Kathy Pattison](#)

BEAVER PA COMMITTEE REPORTS: INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW + HIGHLIGHTS: Melinda O’Leary, PA Co-Chair

- Welcome Team Co-Chairs: Danielle Meagher + Lynn Youngen
 - ✓ Always looking for new volunteers! Don’t need to know everything about school, just a willingness to reach out to new families. Not a big time commitment; we work as a team; great way to engage yourself in Beaver.
 - ✓ Committee created two years ago to welcome new families during pandemic. BVR Greeters assigned to families roughly by grade level. First outreach in May; July Zooms to allow for questions; September emails, outreach at fall events.
 - ✓ Remainder of 2021-2022: looking for suggestions to engage new 2022 families in the spring.
- Swag Committee Chair: Barrie Silk
 - ✓ Four ways to get swag: Student council 2x/year; Athletics 3x/year (every season), Beaver online store (all year); PA sales at school events (welcome events, teacher conference days, kickoff events). Great way to meet people!
 - ✓ PA orders swag; have accumulated over the years This year’s focus: sell inventory at reduced prices before bringing in anything new. Sold over \$4000 worth of swag so far this year. New inventory *should* arrive beginning of December. New items include dog shirt, leash, car cling, jogger and hoodie. Will be available at first community event after arrival; might not be before holidays.

- BVR/it Committee Chair: Shannon Falkson
 - ✓ First event was Nov. 9th, The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. Small but great group of attendees. On campus, really nice to connect with new people.
 - ✓ Next event early March, date TBD. Book will be from the US curriculum and event will be led by BVR faculty.
 - ✓ Committee may do additional book discussion during the year. Stay tuned!
- Teacher Appreciation Committee Co-Chairs: Tricia Thomson + Jean Dies
 - ✓ So far this year: two successful potlucks, one each during MS and US fall conferences for all faculty. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped support this! Signups filled within 24 hrs.! Table was always packed in faculty room and appreciated by everyone.
 - ✓ Surveyed faculty and staff re: what they valued in prior years; great contribution of new ideas moving forward. Plan to create online Kudos board over December break (similar to the one from Thanksgiving 2020).
 - ✓ Next committee meeting in December to finalize plans and brainstorm for the rest of the year. Exciting to develop new ways to show appreciation for faculty and staff!
- PIN Committee Co-Chairs: Danielle Meagher + Suzy Enyeart
 - ✓ PIN stands for Parents' Independent Schools Network. Almost 40 independent schools, all grades. Meeting dates are announced through grade reps or BVR PA email. Communication also thru Facebook page: meetings <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358986971322391>
 - ✓ Goal is to educate parent communities, network, and share best practices of parent groups. PIN encourages student community service and awards student grants annually for community service expenses.
 - ✓ All meetings by Zoom this year. Future dates:
 - January 12th at 12:00 pm: Annual meeting and head of school panel. Topic is "Reestablishing and Maintaining School Culture since Covid".
 - February 16: Stanford mental health department – how to support kids' mental health.
 - March 3: Harlan Cohen, college life expert and author of "The Naked Roommate".
 - May 12: Student Community Service Awards
- Events Committee Chair: Monica Cost
 - ✓ Three events, so far this year. Volunteers have been amazing! Great participation and a great way to get involved. Contact Monica at monicagcost@gmail.com for more information.
 - ✓ Next PA event December 7th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (*Snow date: December 14*). Speaker event *on campus* featuring [Dr. Charmain Jackman](#), founder of InnoPsych, Inc. PA partner event with the Beaver Counseling and Health Services team. Email invitation sent Nov. 18th to entire school community.

EVENT DEBRIEF: Melinda O'Leary, PA Co-Chair, and Katie Shore, Beaver Philanthropy + Engagement

- US Parent/Caregiver Fall Reception Feedback and Comments
 - ✓ All four grades in same room; amazing to have everyone together; easier for parents with kids in multiple grades, nametags really helpful. Great to meet other parents in person and make connections through sports, welcome team.
 - ✓ Indoor/Outdoor aspect of Design Level was great. Weather cooperated! Food was amazing, parents loved the swag table. Swag committee grateful to MS parents who volunteered to help out.
- BVR/it Feedback and Comments
 - ✓ Great questions, intimate and interesting discussion on race relations, colorism, family conflict, 'passing'.
 - ✓ Suggestion for next event: follow up could include a forum (possibly online) to continue the conversation. Wished there was such a forum for all community members to continue conversation and even friendly debate. Sometimes when in person, people hesitant to voice opinions. For example, one parent wanted to share information on a Netflix movie called "Passing". Really impressed with this group; still thinking about what we talked about, what book meant to each of us. Encourage everyone to come to the next event! For discussion prompts, click [here](#).
 - ✓ In addition to affinity groups, consider an inclusivity group – bring together all groups to discuss similar topics. Please share similar suggestions with [Joe Christy](#) (MS Dir. of Engagement and Inclusion), [Jimmy Manyuru](#) (US Dir. of Student Life and Equity) or [Elisha Cho](#) (US Asst. Dir. of Student Life and Equity) who spearhead these events on campus.

FUTURE 2021-2022 PA COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS: Melinda O'Leary

- **As of 11/17/2021, all future events will be on campus.**
- December 7th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (*Snow date: December 14*). PA community event, partnering with the Beaver Counseling and Health Services team, featuring speaker [Dr. Charmain Jackman](#), founder of InnoPsych, Inc.
- January 13th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (*Snow date: January 20*). BVR Chats: Casual conversation and faculty/staff guest speakers who are eager to answer your questions about Beaver.
- March date TBD: *BVR/it*. Book will be from the US curriculum and event will be led by BVR faculty.
- April 9th, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. TASTE, Beaver's Annual Spring Parent Social.
- April 26th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. BVR Chats: Casual conversation and faculty/staff guest speakers who are eager to answer your questions about Beaver.

QUESTIONS + COMMENTS

- Discussed difference between school-sponsored and PA events. For example, the November 18th "Critical Conversations" event is school-sponsored and curriculum-based, and email invitation came from Kader Adjout, US Director of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation.
- Suggestion to note calendar changes for events (for example, when a date or time is changed, be sure to point out the change in the email invitation).
- Suggestion to sync all BVR calendars (school, PA, athletics) with personal calendars that can be linked to iCal, etc.
- Request for Canvas parent training. Two years ago (before Covid), parents were offered Canvas training during a back-to-school event. It would be great to bring it back, maybe at Open Studios? Parents agreed that Canvas can make it difficult to figure out how your child is doing. Assignments may show as missing/late when they're not. A parent noted that Canvas helps students manage themselves, rather than parents managing students. If there are any issues with your child's learning, teachers will reach out before issues become serious. The [Beaver IT](#) team can provide support and answer questions about PowerSchool and Canvas.
- Please reach out, especially through email with any questions or comments for the BVR PA. We're here to help! Replies to The BVR PA email account is monitored closely and you will receive a reply! Emailing parentassociation@bcdschool.org or your Grade Rep is the easiest way to get answers.

Meeting concluded at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Diane Gwin, BVR PA Secretary