

GOAL TEN STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

To enrich our children’s educational experience, we utilize the resources of our community.

Recommendations to Blaine County School District



Bridges

Making Connections between School and Community

“Academic, civic, health, and behavior benefits accrue when students are actively engaged in learning and connected to the school and broader community”, according to Brown’s review of research in *Educating the Whole Child* (p.127). Additionally, in the report *Core Principles of Engaging Young People in Community Change* (Pittman, Martin, & Williams, 2007, p.6) the authors indicate that when the reciprocal aspects of youth contributing to the community and the community contributing to youth results in a powerful interdependence that “create(s) the necessary conditions for the successful development of themselves, their peers, their families and their communities”.

Based on these principles, the Goal Ten committee has developed the following action plan/strategy proposals to address the school-community partnerships in Blaine County. This action plan will create an umbrella of existing and future collaborative partnerships which foster good will between all stakeholders in our community. We acknowledge that the community members offer many resources and opportunities for our youth and our youth connect with our community in service. Yet, we recognize that there is a need for a systemic transfer of information across both entities, a way to access and facilitate the opportunities with greater ease and intent. We begin, by giving this partnership a name: **BRIDGES**. Then, we create the campaign that brings awareness to all stakeholders and follow it with the establishment of a website that bridges community and school resources.

Action Plan/Strategy 1

- Develop an on-going outreach campaign that brings awareness of **BRIDGES** to the Wood River Valley.
 - The Campaign Basics
 - Establish a BRIDGES Task Force that oversees the community campaign connecting the school and other valley resources.
 - Design a logo for Bridges by involving WRHS students - Bill Pesky and his Desktop Publishing Class has agreed to do this.
 - Suggested campaign activities
 - Brochure - to share with organizations, business, and other individuals within the community created by internal resources (BCSD staff or WRHS IT/Tech Academy)
 - Newspaper or Website article and possible advertisement
 - Link to Bridges from Sun Valley On-Line
 - Article w/Mt. Express
 - Radio/TV interviews
 - Presentations to school district staff and community organizations (Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

- Campaign Timeframe
 - Committee formation - Fall 2009
 - Design of the logo – Spring 2009 - Fall 2009
 - Brochure design - Winter 2009-2010
 - Outreach campaign – Winter/Spring 2010
- Costs
 - Brochure production (in-house) based on .10/copy x10, 000 = \$1,000.00
 - Send home with students
 - Key locations in Blaine County organizations and businesses
 - Give to real estate agents to hand to perspective home/business owners
 - Advertisement in Wolverine Prints – WRHS newspaper
 - Poster option in place of brochure as needed

Action Plan/Strategy 2

- Create a website linked to the BCSD home website that **BRIDGE** community and cultural resources with the school district patrons.
 - The Bridges Website Basics
 - The Bridges Task Force works to develop the website with the following features:
 - BRIDGES HOME PAGE
 - Philosophy (reference 21st Century Performance Indicators and research references), intent, invitation
 - Tabs to direct interest
 - Connections Roster Tab
 - School-Community Connections Tab
 - Student and Family Connections Tab
 - Connections Roster Tab
 - Presenters - Create a template that perspective presenters would complete and express interest in connecting with the school.
 - Brief biography (expertise, topic, activities)
 - Grade level appropriateness
 - Contact information
 - Availability

- Alumni information – (high school, college) with willingness to share college information with students
 - References
- **Mentorship Directory**
 - Links to contact information for organizations that provide mentorship opportunities such as Boys and Girls Club, Lunch Buddies through BCSD social workers, Big Brother/Big Sisters, etc.
- **Internship Directory**
 - Listing of contact information for businesses/organizations that are willing to provide internships for prepared high school students.
- **School-Community Connections** Tab
 - **Field Trip information** – teachers are able to post information regarding ‘tried and true’ field trips by listing location, contact information, ties to standards, costs.
 - **Message Board**
 - Posting of special events
 - Dynamic feature screened through BCSD web-site manager to list requests/needs from the community ie BCRD needs 4 high school referees for 3/12/ basketball game from 9:00 – 12:00.
 - **Service Learning Opportunities** – listing of organizations with contact information who have needs that can be met through service learning by class-wide or school clubs
 - Examples: City of Bellevue, City of Hailey, Hunger Coalition, Advocates, Souper Supper, etc.
- **Student and Family Connections** Tab
 - **Clubs and Organization Directory**
 - School-sponsored and other community clubs/organizations
 - Lists of clubs/organizations with links or contact information
 - **Community Service Directory**

- Agencies or organizations that are able to sponsor individual students requesting community service hours
 - Posting or listing of special events
- **Parent Resource Directory**
 - Naviance
 - Organizations would be able to login and post educational opportunities for families
 - Examples: St. Luke's brown bag series, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Lee Pesky Learning Center, BCSD offerings, CSI.
- **Other community resources**
 - Links to Children's Mental Health, Health and Welfare, Health Clinics, etc.
- Timeframe
 - Website development – Begin development in summer 2009 - ready for accessibility - Winter/Spring 2010
 - Solicit community participation in the website/BRIDGES – beginning Winter 2009/2010
- Costs to the school district
 - Website development – in-house development – \$5,000 – 10,000 (based on internal costs – absorbed through working with current staff)
 - After consultation with Jeff Smith, it is believed that the work can be done over the summer with current staff or with possible short-term summer intern
 - Website maintenance and monitoring – 20 hours per month based on current staffing
 - Possibly falls under Administrative Assistant –School Relations employee (Kate Heineke)

Goal Ten Committee Members

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