

On September 19th, the Community Partnership Committee met for the first time this school year. We had a smaller turnout, but we had a lot of rich discussion!

We started off our meeting with a reminder of our current mission/vision:

The purpose of this committee is to uplift and highlight the activities that are already happening in our local community while also working with the school to schedule around or with any events or programs that are currently happening in the school district.

Some updates from Summer:

- Back to school supply events
  - PVMCC and the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church held supply giveaways over the summer
  - PVMCC held their first supply giveaway and were able to help 20 students with school supplies and also held a clothing drive
  - Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church also had a successful supply give away in August giving away 50 backpacks
  - Berlin Elementary School also received an abundance of donations from organizations and the community! Thank you everyone! The hope for next school year will be to distribute extra supplies that we have leftover at the end of the year to the elementary classrooms in hopes to cut spending costs for families (lots of glue sticks and crayons).
  - A discussion was had regarding supplies for middle and high school students as most supply giveaways are focused on elementary students.
- James reached out to Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and they have said that they are planning/hoping to come to our October meeting: October 17th from 6-7pm.
- Any other updates?
  - Layla Davis (BCSD transportation dispatcher) would like to come to join our committee and will come in October but is concerned about childcare.

- Could we as a committee try to set up childcare so more families can attend? (Maybe community service for seniors?)
  - A virtual option will be offered for the October meeting.
- Rachel Turetsky strengthened the relationship between BCSD and the local libraries and has been sharing events they have shared with her on our [Community Support Programs and Upcoming Events page](#) (as well as social media).
- September 30th - Petersburg Harvest Festival - James has spoken to Joan about setting up a Community Partnership table that will be shared with PVMCC.
- October 14th - Fall Fest at Berlin Middle/High School. James has also signed up to have a table at this event. (If anyone would like to join James at these events, please let us know!)
- There was discussion about hosting future meetings at the Libraries and/or other community spaces. Could definitely be an option, but some members may have to leave early to get to the Board of Education meetings that are after ours.

A big topic of discussion was that of creating a Job Fair:

- The Board of Education Roundtable discussed trades/CTEs & how to make it more of an option for students as well as college. This led to a discussion of possibly creating a job fair for students here. James Church, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Questar was someone who spoke at our May meeting who may be a good resource for this. The hope is that the job fair would offer local job opportunities for current students and alumni. The idea is to have different employers come, maybe some different tradesmen, and representatives from the programs at Questar, as well as the ability for younger students to get their working papers.
  - There was discussion that Questar already does an open house, but this doesn't allow the opportunity for those with transportation issues to attend. The hope is that the job fair could be one event that will target all. Reaching out to MA, VT businesses that may be only 20-30 minutes away.
  - HOMEWORK: Finish formulating a list of local businesses and reach out to them and see what their job opportunities are. Summer

employment, winter employment, year round employment. Here is that list: [CPC Local Organizations List](#)

- Also, reach out to Questar - do they have a list of alumni that are working in their field that we could link up with prospective students who are interested in the program?
- Alumni association looking for information on past graduates within the district.
- Need to invite BMHS Counseling Staff to our next meeting. James will reach out.

We reviewed the ideas we had for this current school year that were proposed at our last meeting in June:

- Invite local organizations into our meeting to talk about what they are doing.
- Creation of a community partnership newsletter
  - Does there need to be a separate position or stipend position for a community liaison to create this newsletter and keep in touch with organizations?
    - Budgetary concerns: Mailing, printing hard copies, creation of document
    - Community liaison person could also work on finding grants for things like transportation
    - Rebekah went to that month's board meeting to pitch the idea of a separate community liaison position, but there has been no word on whether or not this has been discussed further or created.
  - Until then, Rachel Turetsky proposed the idea to create an insert to add to the Eastwick Press, getting our news out to the community members that are not invested in the school. Rachel will reach out to the Eastwick Press about asking him to join our meeting and see if he is up for helping us.
    - HOMEWORK: we need a fun name for this insert!
- The school should have a presence in the parades in the spring and summer - Memorial Day and July 4th. Either having a marching band

and/or inviting Alumni to take part in these parades as it gets closer to summer months.

- Drivers ed is being worked on currently, the district has obtained a car but needs to find a teacher (?)

Other items discussed:

- There will be another photography contest at Library in the darker months - Rebekah has been touching base with the Art teachers to get students who may be interested signed up. Open to the entire community. More information to come!
- Discussion of Continuing Education - is this a goal we would like the committee to have?

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 17th from 6pm-7pm BMHS Library. Please share the attached flyer. We hope to see you there!