

Report to School Committee
Tracey Orchard, Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer Program's Contributions to Goal 1 of the District Strategic Plan
2009-2010

This report addresses the contributions of volunteers in regard to each objective in Goal #1 of the District's Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Expand community involvement and engagement to support the excellence of Barrington Public Schools (BPS).

How the Volunteer Program has expanded community involvement:

- Reached out to those who do not volunteer on a regular basis.
- Provided one-time volunteer opportunities to the broader parent community.
- Developed a resource list of volunteers willing to visit schools to help support the "One World" theme (see separate attachment).

Example: A grandmother visiting from India was invited to speak to 2nd grade students about Indian culture.

Objective 1-1: Identify community members and stakeholder groups whose involvement and support is needed. (4)

Update and enhance current BPS contact lists. (4,7)

Identify and gather contact information needed to communicate effectively and efficiently. (4,7)

Establish a communications database, including e-mail addresses. (4,7)

Update information annually. (7)

How the Volunteer Program uses communication tools:

- Collaborated with David Burrows to revise the format of the Excel program of our Volunteer Data Base to include more pertinent information.
- Set a goal of relying exclusively on email as a communication tool.
- Developed a method to maintain contact with volunteers as their children enter upper grades. This will establish a greater volunteer presence at BMS and BHS.

Objective 1-2: Create new communication tools that inform the community, encourage input to BPS, and provide opportunities for community participation. (4)

Develop an on-line newsletter (4)

Institute parent focus groups on curriculum and assessment (4)

Conduct speaking engagements for community groups (4)

Develop materials and opportunities for cable coverage (4,7)

How the Volunteer Office creates new communication tools:

- A goal for 2010-2011 is that the Volunteer Office will regularly contribute to schools' newsletters with updates about volunteer opportunities and recognition of volunteer contributions.

Objective 1-3: Develop interactive opportunities to engage members of the broader community including grandparents, seniors, community members without students in BPS, and BPS alumni. (4)

Promote greater outreach to community on school activities. (1, 4)

Invite community members and groups to student achievement celebrations

How the Volunteer Program engages the broader community:

- Match volunteers' skills to opportunities.

Example: The Wizard of Oz production at Nayatt was in need of people to sew costumes. Few parents had this skill, so we reached out to the Senior Center for help. Our Senior volunteers were given tickets to the show.

Objective 1-4: Cultivate relationships with professionals in the community to access their needed expertise to assist BPS. (1, 4)

Utilize current list of BPS volunteers. (1, 4)

Expand use of professionals to assist students in career planning and mentorship. (1, 4)

How the Volunteer Program expands the use of professionals as mentors:

- Lunch and Learn

Adults from the community visit the schools during lunch to speak to the children about a career or area of interest. These volunteers are identified through a survey that is filled out by parents each fall.

Examples: Family Physician, Naval Engineer, Peace Corps Volunteer, Surfer, Animal Control Officer.

- Career Day at BMS:

Expand the list of volunteers to diversify Career Day offerings.

Example: Deputy Attorney General Gerald Coyne has been a volunteer for Career Day for many years. This year we invited an active Nayatt volunteer, who happens to be an Assistant Attorney General, to join him. As a woman and mother, she enhanced the presentation by being a role model for girls interested in the field of law.

Sampling of Data About Volunteers (Approximate Numbers):

Active volunteers in data base: 680

New volunteers who are trained each year: 100

BHS Library Volunteers: 12

BHS H1N1 Volunteers: 23

BMS Career Day Volunteers: 35

BMS One Amazing Night Volunteers: 45

HMS Field Day Volunteers: 45

One World Resource List Volunteers (all elementary schools): 45

Nayatt Room Parents 4

Sowams Committee Chairs: 14

Primrose Recess Program: 20