

BOLINAS-STINSON SCHOOL NEWS

January 11, 2019 ~ 415-868-1603 ~ www.bolinas-stinson.org



Be Safe ~ Be Respectful ~ Be Responsible ~ Be Kind

Dear School Community,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed a restful winter break and feel energized for the new year ahead. As you may know, we are discussing the various class configuration options for the 2019-20 school year. These options were developed in collaboration with the staff.

We had a great parent meeting this week regarding class configurations with very open and honest dialogue. I also spoke with our 7th and 8th graders to get their perspective and was impressed by their insightful questions and comments. This is an important decision that will have a lasting impact on our students, staff, and school community. Please take the time to review the options and read through the comments below.

If you have any questions about the options, please reach out to other parents that attended the meeting, or let me know. I strongly encourage all parents to make your voice heard by sharing your thoughts and preference for next year by using the [PARENT INPUT SURVEY](#) link. Please let me know if you need access to a device to fill the Parent Input Survey and we will accommodate you.

Parent Input/Comments from Parent Meeting on 1/10/19

Option 1a:

- Not equitable for teachers because teaching a combo class is more work to learn/teach two whole curriculums
- In the past this model contributes to teachers having to change grade levels each year
 - Difficult for teachers to develop deep mastery of subject matter/content

Option 1b:

- Two teachers for three grades (6,7,8) is very difficult and stressful for teachers and students
- In the past, difficulty in scheduling with this model contributed to gaps in continuity of instruction
- Grades 6,7, & 8 are content heavy - difficult to combine

Option 2:

- Like teaching partnership of two teachers sharing two grade levels
- Like how this model allows teachers to focus on grade level instruction in core areas
- Like greater class flexibility when combining and separating cohorts for instruction/projects
- Like the opportunity for older students to mentor younger students to build interpersonal skills
- Concern about moving 1st grade to Bolinas Campus
 - Under-utilizes the Stinson Campus and overly impacts facilities on the Bolinas Campus
 - One suggestion was moving 7th & 8th to Stinson, but some parents expressed concern over isolating the middle school students
- Concern that this option is more expensive. Does the benefit of one more teacher warrant the added cost and impact on the Bolinas Campus facilities?
- Concern over where would we find the additional space for the additional classrooms

Option 3:

- Like the ability of teachers to combine and separate students at two grade levels and provide better differentiation
- Like how students will be exposed to a different cohort of students each year
- Like that teachers will be able to stay at grade level/subject areas for an extended period rather than changing grade levels each year

- Teachers able to develop deep mastery of content/standards
- Like how this option has less of an impact on the two campuses
- Like having three teachers for 6, 7, & 8th grade and the flexibility/dynamics this provides
- Concern about potential financial impact
- Concern about having to relocate teachers/programs to accommodate additional classes
 - Explore possibility of portable building to house additional classes on Bolinas campus

General Comments

- Important to get the word out to the community in Town Hall Meetings about the following topics:
 - BSUSD Deficit spending - Why are we deficit spending? How did our budget change? What contributed to this? What are we doing to be fiscally responsible?
- Important to share all the good things and work happening at our school
 - Share stories with local paper about activities/work/student articles
- Raise consciousness about need for increased revenue - Parcel tax?

Middle School Student's Input:

Option 1a:

- Felt that there was repetition in being exposed to the same information as the year before when in a combo class
- Preferred being taught as a single grade in core curricular areas rather than a blended curriculum in a combo class

Option 1b:

- Felt that when they were in a combo class they would learn something new, then learn it again the following year
- Felt that teachers may not have time to really go deep into content because of blending the two grades in a combo class and especially concerned about this with two teachers for 6,7,& 8th.
- Felt that the TOSA (extra teacher could be confusing)
- Preferred being taught as a single grade in core curricular areas to be able to go deeper into grade level content

Option 2:

- Preferred this option to being in a combo class
- Felt that if they had this option rather than a combo it would have made a difference in their learning
- Like having 7th and 8th grades together with two teachers
- Concerned that switching back and forth between two teachers might be confusing for young students

Option 3:

- Like the social aspect of 6th, 7th, and 8th together
 - Feel that older students could mentor the younger students and help them
 - Provide more support for incoming 6th graders with two older grades to help them
- Like the simplicity of having 7th & 8th together and concerned that it might get too confusing with the addition of 6th grade and additional transitions
 - Concern that too many classes and ages of students could be confusing when combined
 - Concern about how the content/subjects would be supported by three teachers

Thank you for participating in this important process. I look forward to sharing parent input with staff and the board.

Warmly,

Michelle Stephens, Bolinas-Stinson School Principal
mstephens@bolinas-stinson.org 415-868-1603

Calendar of Events-Early dismissal at 2pm every Wednesday

Monday 1/14-(9am-noon) School Board Retreat/Special Board Meeting in school library

Tuesday 1/15-(9:30-noon) Dance Palace performance, grades PK, K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
(3:15-4:30) Kindergarten Readiness Committee meets in Kindergarten class on Stinson Campus

Monday 1/21-NO SCHOOL-Martin Luther King holiday

Thursday 1/24-5th & 6th grade field trip to CA Academy of Sciences

Thursday 2/7 (3:15pm-4:30pm) School Site Council meets in school library

Friday 2/8 & Monday 2/11-Annual School Book Fair

Monday 2/11(*reschedule date*)-Wellness Committee Meeting from 12-1pm in school library

Tuesday 2/12-(6pm open session) School Board Meeting in school library

Monday 2/18-Friday 2/22-Mid-winter break-**NO SCHOOL**-return on Monday 2/25.

Breakfast & Lunch Menu

Monday 1/14-**Breakfast**: Scrambled eggs and multigrain toast, oatmeal, fruit, milk
Lunch: Baked tortellini with pesto or tomato sauce, roasted veggies, salad bar, fruit, milk

Tuesday 1/15-**Breakfast**: Banana and blueberry muffin, oatmeal, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Nachos with shredded chicken and fixings, salad bar, fruit, milk.

Wednesday 1/16-**Breakfast**: Assorted cold cereals, hardboiled egg, oatmeal, fruit, milk
Lunch: Grilled cheese or sunbutter & jam sandwiches, chips, salad bar, fruit, milk

Thursday 1/17-**Breakfast**: English muffin with sausage patty, oatmeal, fruit, milk
Lunch: Roasted chicken & baked potatoes, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit, milk

Friday 1/18-**Breakfast**: Homemade apple crisp, hardboiled egg, fruit, milk
Lunch: Cheese/hamburger, veggie burger, salad bar, fruit, milk



BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 8, 2019

Bolinas Stinson Green STEAM Committee

Dear Staff, Parents and Community Members,

As you may already know the Bolinas-Stinson School has a Green-STEAM committee. If this is news to you, you are probably wondering *what is the Green-STEAM Committee?*

Green-STEAM is a committee made up of members that are interested in supporting students' learning opportunities in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). The 'Green' pertains to the fact that this committee is particularly interested in supporting projects that enable students to explore these subjects while developing their understanding for how human behavior can negatively impact our environment, and how STEAM can be used to problem solve and mitigate these negative impacts.

With the departures of Rob Hoge and Kevin Pedersen, two of its founding members, Green-STEAM has lost a little bit of ... well... steam. I am looking to revamp the program by resuming monthly meetings after school and collecting useful information from parents, staff, teachers and administration. In these first meetings and with the information we collect here, I'm hoping we can come up with a plan for how this committee can best support the school in making sure that learning opportunities and resources consistent with our mission are available to students of all ages at the Bolinas-Stinson School.

The information I'm looking to collect at this time is:

- 1) Do you want to be a member of this committee?
- 2) Staff: What is the best day of the week to have this afterschool meeting? (I cannot make Wednesdays, and was hoping for an hour long meeting with a 3:30pm start).
- 3) If you are a staff member, what student projects are you already involved/leading that are aligned with Green-STEAM's vision, and how do you think our committee could best support you in carrying out your existing projects?
- 4) Do you have any idea for student based projects that align with our vision? Do you have any good ideas for how the committee could help get your project up and running?

Please email me your answers to these questions: georgiaw@bolinas-stinson.org
Thanks for your input and hope you join me in in getting the Green-STEAM train rolling.

Sincerely,

Georgia Woods
BSUSD Trustee and Green-STEAM Committee Chair

1/9/2019 Board meeting highlights

Board trustee Georgia Woods is looking for members to join her on the Green-STEAM committee. See her letter in this school news.

Board Meeting times. Staff have requested that meeting begin earlier (closed session at 3; open at 4) **Parents: How do you feel about this? Would an earlier start time make it easier for you to attend? Let me know with an email to: johannas@bolinas-stinson.org**

Principal Stephens will open a survey to parents for their opinions on configurations for the 2019-2020 school year.

A Board retreat is scheduled for 1/14/19 from 9 to 12 in the school library. Agendas will be forthcoming.

The Budget committee will be re-formed.

Stinson Beach Community Center

Spaghetti
BINGO

Friday
January 11th

6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Bingo

\$7.00 Dinner - \$2.00 per card

Fun for All