



Parent Community Outreach Program

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January 2021

School Board Report

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BPS Child Care

The BPS Child Care Center is excited to welcome Rose Racine as our new Child Care Coordinator! Rose is an amazing addition to our childcare family! Currently, the child care center remains closed for services. However, we are actively making preparations for re-opening in the event the Central Administration makes this decision in the near future. These preparations include ensuring all safety guidelines are in place for serving infants and toddlers in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although we are licensed to serve #22 children, the number we actually enroll will be determined by the space we have to provide for physical distancing, as well as staff to child ratios. We currently have #14 district employees in need of childcare when we return to the blended/hybrid learning model. We are also conducting outreach to determine how many of our district's teen parents will need childcare as they will continue to have priority enrollment. Once this information has been confirmed, we will be able to notify district staff as to whether or not they will be able to enroll their child(ren).

BPS Teen Parent Resource Center

The BPS Teen Parent Resource Center's staff has identified 19 teen parents so far in the 2020-2021 academic year. Of these, two are currently dropped; we are gathering information on one new referral; there are #14- 12th graders and #2- 11th graders.

We continue to meet bi-weekly with the Blackfeet Pregnant and Parenting Teen Coalition to coordinate supportive services. We also continue to provide weekly check-ins with the teen parents to offer these services. The response to this outreach varies but the teen parents also know how to reach out to the program when in need. In December, at least 8 teen parents were provided with supportive services. In January, we have so far served 3. We continue to stock our Baby Clothes Closet and Diaper Pantry for any emergency needs.

BPS Hi-Set & Adult Basic Education

The BPS Hi-Set & Adult Basic Education program continues to offer a blend of online tutoring and packet-based tutoring. Once students are ready to take the Hi-Set test, they are able to register through HiSET.ets.org. At this time, testing is being done at home with a proctor monitoring online. Clients are notified of this process when they sign up for tutoring and then provided with both verbal and written reminders.

Attendance Update:

December 2020 Total Enrollment: #57

New Students	0
Virtual/On-line	37
Paper Packets	20
Actively Participating	7
In-active	50

January 2021 Total Enrollment: #60

New Students	3
Virtual/On-line	40
Paper Packets	20
Actively Participating	7
In-active	50

Successes: We currently have two students who are nearly ready to test!

Challenges: The pandemic has created a multitude of challenges for our HiSet clients, much the same as those experienced by other preK-12 BPS students. Many of our families are struggling to juggle employment, virtual learning for their own children, in addition to the issues pre-existing the pandemic.

BPS YHDP

The BPS Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) will soon be welcoming aboard our new Youth Case Manager. Once this position is filled, we will start to identify those unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) in need of YHDP services. There is much work to be done and we are excited to dig in!

BPS āiss oōmmoōtsiiyō•

The BPS āiss oōmmoōtsiiyō• program celebrated the holidays with our families by partnering with the BPS Activities department by providing funds to purchase snack items for the Grinchmas holiday event. We also celebrated our grandparents raising grandchildren by providing gift bags/care packages courtesy of our “adopted” Grandma Margaret of Indiana. Grandma Margaret donated items such as snacks, cozy socks, warm teas and mugs for the grandparents, and little toys and activities for the children (that would allow the grandparents



to have a moment's reprieve!)

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At least 15 bags of donated clothing were also shared with the grandparents for themselves and their grandchildren when the gift bags were delivered :)

School-based Clothing Closets

Due to the fact that our students are not able to access the School-based clothing closets, we have been sorting through donations and distributing from our building. In preparation for re-opening childcare, we need to clear out our “Big Room.” We currently have over #50 bags of clothing that we will be giving to Renee LaPlant of Western Native Voice/ Montana Native Vote to assist with filling #427 applications she received for clothing requests. This is a one-time event, according to Renee. We are happy to partner with Western Native Voice/ Montana Native Vote for this community giveaway. A special shout out to Robin England, Ronnel Goss and JoRae Rattler for the time & effort they put into sorting through and organizing the clothing!



The Kalispell Heart Locker has informed us that the shed they built for us is already full with another load of clothing! We will gladly accept this donation once we return to blended/hybrid learning so that we can distribute the clothing directly to the individual schools.

School-based Food Pantry

Our school-based food pantries will soon be stuffed to the gills thanks to the Montana Food Pantry grant. It was a little crazy trying to spend out \$66,000 on food by the end of December. In total, we were able to purchase 22,000 pounds of food and essentials. We were also able to purchase (5) freezers, which will come in super-handly when we get those unexpected donations of meat, etc; these are located at the BMS, BHS, WBHA, Babb, and newly established PCOP pantry (stay tuned for pictures!) We also purchased additional shelving for the PCOP, Babb, BMS and WBHA pantries. This grant also allows us to partner with the Oyop food pantry for rural deliveries. A special thank you to Reid Reagan for ensuring the deliveries weren't left out on the street anywhere! Special shout out to Matthew Johnson for storing the pallets for all the schools, and to Lynne Keenan for also providing storage. We are very excited to see the school-based food pantries once everything is organized!





Our pantries were also recently blessed with a generous donation of commodities from the Blackfeet Boarding Dorm. These items will be shared between the 5 school based food pantries as well.

Food Service continues to distribute the Montana Food Bank Network's weekend backpack meals to students experiencing food insecurity. Approximately #1000 of these bags are distributed weekly.