

Q: When is the Community Meeting and how do I attend?

A: The community meeting is being held Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:30pm via Zoom. Once you register via [this link](#), you'll receive a confirmation email with the zoom link for the meeting. As is the case with all BSCO Community Meetings, only those attending the meeting can participate in the vote.

Q: What is Bobcat Academy?

A: Bobcat Academy is an after school program where students who need extra support to achieve grade-level learning objectives at Bonny Slope have the opportunity to get additional small group instruction. About 10% of the student body will be chosen to participate. Bobcat Academy will occur after school hours and will be led by qualified BSD educators, and is similar to a model that Mrs. Meier previously utilized at her prior elementary school.

Q: Why are you asking for this vote in the midst of the holiday season? Couldn't this have waited until the Winter Community Meeting at the end of January?

A: The need for Bobcat Academy was brought to the attention of the Board as the single greatest priority in the view of the administration and teachers at Bonny Slope. Due to approximately 10% of students falling behind over the course of the last 3 years coupled with the large class sizes at BSE this year, teachers are not able to devote enough time to getting those students caught up during normal school hours. The administration believes there is significant opportunity for these students to be caught up via Bobcat Academy. This will allow for classroom instruction to progress through expected grade level curriculum at the appropriate schedule, benefitting all students. If the community votes to approve on 12/7, the program can start in January, thereby immediately helping students and improving classroom instruction for all. If we wait until the end of January to vote, the program will likely not be up and running until at least mid-February.

Q: Why did the BSCO Board believe it appropriate to bring this issue up for vote?

A: There are 5 stated objectives in BSCO's bylaws. When the administration brought this to the attention of the Board, we felt the request was in line with those objectives and the goals that we are trying to specifically achieve this school year, as outlined during the [Fall Community Meeting](#). However, the members of the Board do not as a group get to make these sorts of decisions. Our purpose is to evaluate whether the request is in line with BSCO's purpose and objectives, provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions and opine, and ultimately oversee the administrative function of tabulating a formal vote. It is the members of BSCO (comprising all parents, guardians, teachers, and staff of students at BSE) who ultimately get to make the decision.

Q: This \$25K for private tutors will only cover 75-100 students out of ~700 students. How can this impact every student as a whole?

A: As noted above, giving students the opportunity to catch up without using as much teacher bandwidth will allow for classrooms to move at a pace closer to what is expected for the curriculum.

Q: How many tutors will be hired?

A: We have nine staff members (8 certified and 3 classified) interested in working with students during Bobcat Academy. When possible, we will pair students with their teacher or the para who normally works with them.

Q: Are the tutors licensed through BSD?

A: 8 are licensed educators, 3 are trained paraeducators.

Q: What if a student who needs help declines the help, will another student be selected?

A: Yes, we will prioritize students and then work to fill all available spots.

Q: How do you determine which students to get help?

A: Our top priority will be those more than a year behind in reading. Teachers will also identify those who need extra writing and math support. Students who are receiving special education services, learning English and in Intervention will qualify as well.

Q: What if a student is able to keep up with class because of tutor help, will another student be selected to get help? Or will these students get help until the end of the school year?

A: Bobcat Academy will be available to students who need the extra instruction throughout the rest of the school year. We will not be looking to remove students once they progress, as we want to ensure they finish the year strong. We will again evaluate who needs summer support when we know what we can offer in Summer 2023.

Q: Will this be a one-on-one tutoring help?

A: No. The tutors will provide instruction in small groups based on student need.

Q: Will transportation also be provided for students who take the bus?

A: Yes, we are working with BSD Transportation to create a route for those who needs transportation home. The funds for this are included in our ~\$1,000/day estimated cost.

Q: Will this be a recurring Academy that happens every year?

A: This budget request only covers the 2022-23 school year.

Q: How often will these students be with the tutors? Once a week, twice a week and for how long? 1 hour?

A: The budget change request covers providing an after-school monitor and qualified tutors once a week throughout the rest of the school year. Bobcat Academy will be held for 75 minutes (3:15-4:30), with snack and brain break included.

Q: Are there any ancillary benefits that come from this spend if the budget change is approved?

A: Yes. As the request encompasses a monitor who can oversee activities at the school after hours, this increases the availability to bring back afterschool programs such as Chess Club, Play Fit Fun, and various other internal clubs and outside vendors to help enrich the lives of students after school. In order to facilitate this, however, we would need a Committee Lead for these programs to volunteer, which has not been a priority of the BSCO community so far this year due to such a short window of availability after school is over (previously 3:15-4:00 pm). We are targeting Wednesdays to be available until 4:30 for vendors.

Q: I have additional questions that have not been answered in the above FAQs - where can I ask them?

A: You have options. Prior to the community meeting on December 7th, please feel free to email Darren Faulk at president@bonnyslopebsco.org (you can also call or text him at 503.807.9797 if this is your preferred method). Additionally, you can attend the Community Meeting and ask questions (via raising your zoom "hand" or by submitting via chat) as the content is presented or during the final Q&A session prior to the vote.