

Meeting Agenda

**April 4, 2024**

BV Board of Education Room

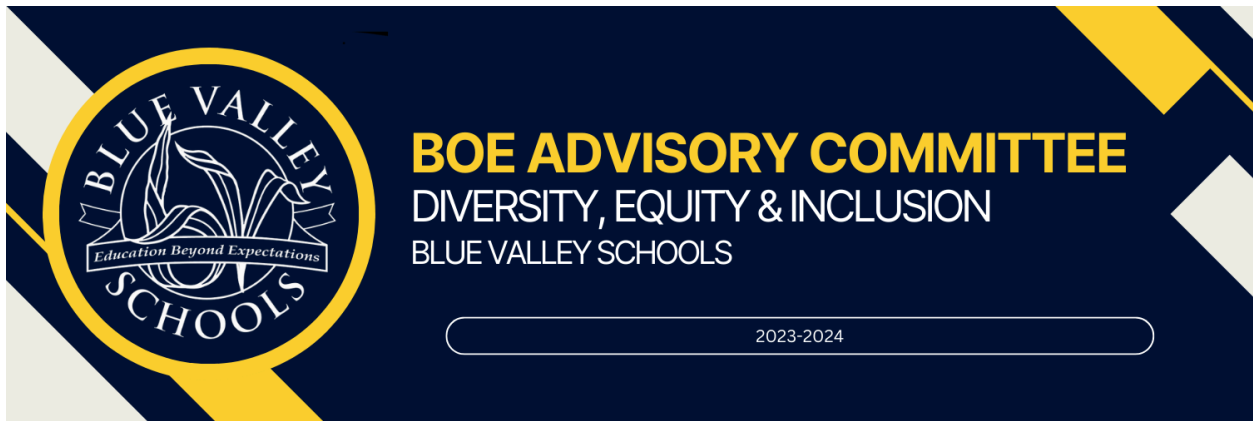
**Attendees:** Kelly Wessel, Scott Roberts, Dan Geist, Chris Gray, Dennis Selznick, Jody Mason, Katie Collier, Lisa Jensen, Lindsey Weiss, Celia Byers, Jodie Dietz, Sonya Evans, Alicia Anderson, Manal Wiedel, Kawani Duson, Angela Mosby, Shahzad Zafar, PROUS (OTE), Samiya Tolliver, Nefertari KB Pross

**Notes:**

Scott Roberts opened the meeting by introducing the topics for the meeting: ESOL programs and welcoming new families to the district. He then introduced Jackie Dearth, Blue Valley Schools K-12 ESOL Coordinator

The ESOL presentation provided an overview of the program and included information such as:

- The number of students with languages other than English - 3530 (up from 3206 last year). Students are identified when families enroll their students and mark the questions about languages spoken.
- Spanish and Telugu are the top languages spoken.
- ESOL Vocabulary - change often, federally - ELL, MLL, ESL, ESOL, KELPA.
- Most BV students in ESOL speak Spanish. There are 55 languages served through ESOL programs.
- In BV some teachers are multilingual. How we teach ESOL is through instructional strategies and personal connections.
- ESOL helps with speaking, reading, listening, and writing.
- Students are encouraged to use their home or "heart" language at home; which builds fluency.
- Overview of program objectives. Teachers work on building proficiency and fluency and most importantly building connections. ESOL teachers are the



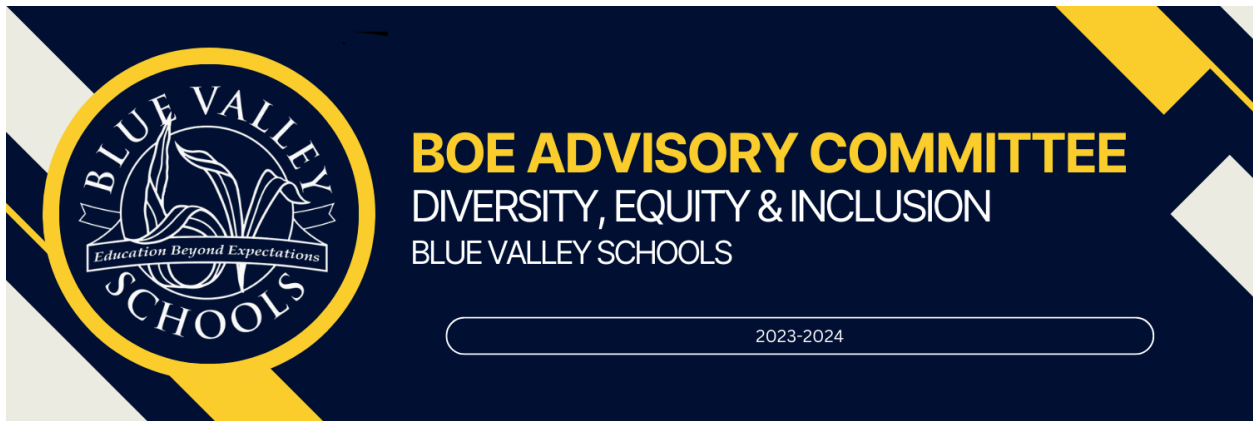
liaison between home and school to help ensure that ESOL students experience academic success.

- BV is a center-based program meaning that students requiring English language services may need to attend a neighboring school to receive those services. Students needing to attend a different school for services are provided free transportation.
- Blue Valley Schools has ESOL programs in 12 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 3 high schools.
- Instructional services include scheduled classes, push-in/co-teach, small group, and individual. Work on proficiency progress.
- In Blue Valley 989 students are classified as ELL/MLL (4.5% of the student population), this includes students who are:
  - Active
  - Monitored
  - Transition
  - Declined

Jackie also shared methods for communicating with families, including:

- Talking Points: Text Message System - increased parent engagement. Parents receive the message in their preferred language and text back in their language and received by the teacher in English.
- Interpreters
- Tools - student devices, SayHi (App), newsletters can be sent out using translation features.

Jackie then introduced panelists of ESOL teachers and opened it up for questions from the Committee.



## **ESOL PANEL**

Michelle Phifer - Oak Hill

Gwen Patterson - Lakewood Elementary

Sarah Laptap - Blue Valley West

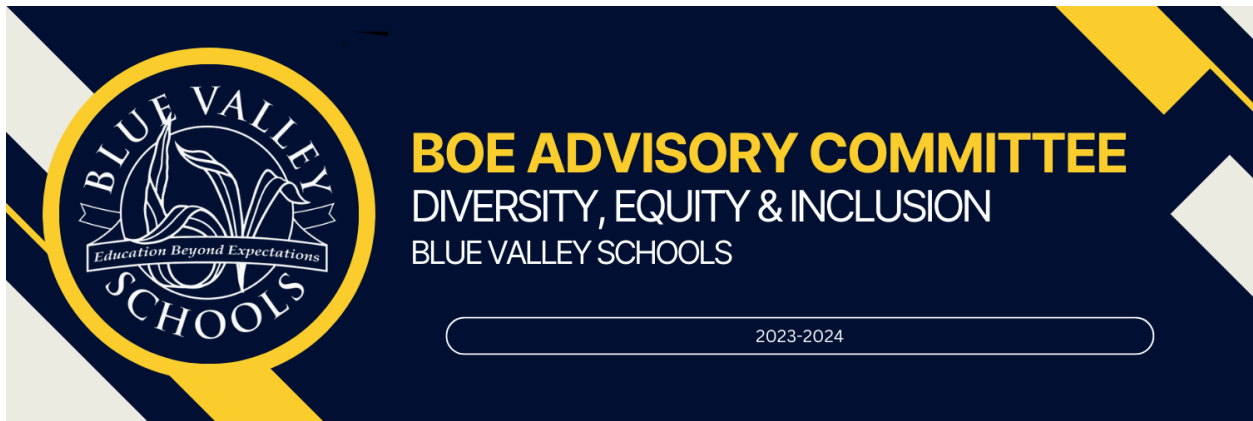
Jessica Murray - Blue Valley West

Scott then introduced Dr. Annette Saucedo, Principal at Heartland Elementary School, and Courtney Domoney, Principal at Oxford Middle School to talk about how they welcome new families into their school communities.

Annette and Courtney shared how they help families navigate the logistics of school, regularly check in using communication tools, connect families with staff members who may speak the same heart language, and work closely with the registrar, ESOL coordinator, and family them to ensure the students and families' needs are met. Principals rely on communication tools to communicate with families in their heart language.

They also discussed how they work diligently to get students involved in at least one school activity to help them develop a sense of belonging. In addition, they shared numerous examples of the ways they help out in special circumstances, e.g., one year they had a physician come to the middle school to provide physicals for all students who wanted to participate in athletics but could not get the physical form completed (a requirement for athletics).

Scott then highlighted the cultural events that take place in our schools. Alicia Anderson and Jody Mason shared about the multicultural week and night held at



Overland Trail Elementary. For the night event, families created tri-folds to share (21 total), families brought food, students performed, and over 200 people attended.

The meeting concluded with Scott thanking the members for their service this year.