

Buckeye Elementary School District



Superintendent's Letter March 2017

Dear Colleagues, Parents and Community Members,

Great things are happening in the BESD! On February 23, the district hosted a national conference for educators around the US to promote strategies and promote the mission of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN). The purpose of MSAN is to understand and change school practices and structures that keep racial achievement gaps in place while improving the achievement of all students.

National MSAN leaders convened at Bales Elementary School, where middle school students from all six campuses presented interactive models of action plans they have created. The students working with MSAN Club Advisors are working hard to help adults and students work together on action plans based on survey data the district conducted last year as a way to gauge how well teacher and students understand each other. Together, goals have been created to increase awareness about inequalities, cultural differences, or other barriers that are impeding student progress. As Superintendent, I could not have been prouder of the outstanding leadership displayed by all of our students. The day ended with a culminating video of students describing what it means to them to be involved with the important work of promoting equality within the walls of their schools.

Feedback from participants highlighted the amazingly great job of everyone involved in this conference. "Beautiful school, action steps explained so well on teacher-student relationships over 180 responses impressive!; I cannot begin to tell you how incredibly impressed I was with the student presentations. Amazingly well done; This was an enlightening professional experience. I appreciate the proactive nature of the student participation."

The district will be continuing the work of equity as it presents several break-out sessions at the Arizona School Boards Equity Conference in April. Students, Advisors and Administrators are all involved in presenting in different sessions. BESD has become a state and national leader, called upon to help other

districts learn how to provide professional development to teachers, parents, governing board members, and students regardless of where they are on the continuum of conducting equity work in their district. The district is committed to expanding and transforming the knowledge, will, skill and capacity to focus on issues of educational equity in our schools. On behalf of our students, I thank you for your support.

We invite you to become involved in our district through the Parent/Superintendent Council, Site Councils at each school, our BESD Foundation, on Twitter @ksandvikBESD33 or Facebook. These are all opportunities to connect with us and see why we are “Passionate about Student Success.” Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Dr. Kristi Sandvik,

Proud BESD Superintendent

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