

HEAD: Crested Butte Community School announces new Family and Community Liaison pilot program

SUB: Part-time position aims to increase engagement and resources to better support the school and its students and families

The Crested Butte Community School Parent Teacher Association (CBCS PTA) and The Crested Butte Rotary Club have joined forces to launch a new Family and Community Liaison pilot program, starting January 2023, at the elementary school.

This part-time, short-term position will provide staffing support for CBCS in the areas of family engagement, volunteer management and communications. In essence, this person would act as a conduit between the school, families and community organizations.

“The impacts of a position like this are well documented in other schools, and the research is clear that students are more successful in school when their parents and the community are involved in meaningful ways,” CBES Principal Sally Hensley said. “The CBES administrative team is on board with this plan, and we are excited to welcome a new member to our team.”

During the pilot, the position will also assess and report on the long-term potential impacts of the program by conducting a needs assessment, researching other models, interviewing stakeholders and exploring funding opportunities.

“Historically, the school has benefited from engaged families, a strong PTA and strong community partners, like Rotary,” CBCS PTA President Margaux Helvey said. “But as volunteers, we can only do so much. With a permanent role in the school, we are deepening these supportive structures at the school. We will see a multiplier effect when it comes to volunteer engagement and family and community connections. We will see an increase in resources, and ultimately, an increase in potential for every student at CBCS.”

Like the PTA, the CB Rotary is an organization that values community and business “connectedness,” volunteer services, and youth education, so it made sense to pool funding for a common goal and launch a 6-month (Phase 1) pilot program from Jan 2023-June 2023 to develop and test what could eventually become a permanent Family and Community Liaison staff position at CBCS.

The intention, if Phase 1 is successful, is to continue this charitable funding for an additional 12-month pilot program (Phase 2) in the 2023-2024 school year, which would include expanding to the secondary school and adding more functions to the role, overall.

“By the end of the 18-months, the program will be well-defined, the outcomes and benefits clearly identified, and a sustainable path to move forward will be outlined,” Helvey said.

The pilot program also includes grant research and identifying a long-term sustainable funding model. Ultimately, if successful and viable, this position could be replicated across other GWSD schools, she added.

According to the job description, qualifications for the Family and Community Liaison include good communication and organizational skills, well versed in website and social media

management, self directed and solution oriented, and having the ability to form relationships and connections across the community. Fundraising and volunteer management experience is preferred, as well as experience in education and program development.

Interested parties can submit a resume and cover letter to CBCS Elementary Principal Sally Hensley at [shensley@gunnisonschools.net](mailto:shensley@gunnisonschools.net) and cc Helvey at [president@crestedbuttepta.org](mailto:president@crestedbuttepta.org).

Any interested donors, foundations or community partners that would like to support this program can visit [www.crestedbuttepta.org](http://www.crestedbuttepta.org) or contact Helvey directly at the above email address.