

BRANDON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



HOME OF THE LYNX

I would like to take this time to share some reflections on what will certainly be a very memorable prom weekend for so many reasons. In my 20+ years of being a principal at BVHS and the 39 proms in my personal life and professional career this is only the second time I can remember snow during a prom and the previous time was an insignificant amount that started late in the evening of Prom. Certainly this year's changing forecast did not help the decision-making process, but it is imperative that we put student safety ahead of all other concerns. We made all of our decisions based on the most up-to-date information available directly from personnel at the National Weather Service. We shared the information as soon as decisions were made using the Skyward Parent and Student Access email tools.

When our plans get changed by matters beyond our control it is very natural to be frustrated. Last summer when our travel group of 30 got stranded in the Chicago airport on our way home from a two-week trip because of a lightning storm the emotions ran very strong. When the reality set in and the emotions ran their course we tried to make the most of a tough situation. I really feel that this prom weekend mirrored our group's summer airport experience. Emotions ran high from the first announcement on Wednesday and through the changes in the days that followed. What I witnessed last night was over 80% of our juniors and seniors having a great time and making the best of a situation they could not control. We had well over 90% of the Prom attendees present when the lights came on at 10:30 PM. I am convinced that some of them did not leave the dance floor at any point during the dance. The Commons still smells like there was a very active dance last night.

There are many people that deserve thanks for helping to make this event special for our students. Even in a normal year it takes a lot of people to make an event like prom happen, if you know some of these people and you feel like I do make sure you take the opportunity to share your appreciation because without them BVHS Prom 2018 would not have been as successful as it was.

- **Carolyn Ebright** – Mrs. Ebright has been the staff person responsible for organizing the BVHS Prom for many years and she does an amazing job. Her task was made much more difficult this year and she embraced the challenge of converting our Commons into a special Prom setting. Mrs. Ebright was assisted by the **Prom Committee** which is a group of juniors that put in time sharing ideas and building the various photo opportunity pieces.

- **Naome Poppe**, the Advanced Foods classes, and some staff members: Mrs. Poppe has led the charge when it comes to providing treats for the students at Prom and this year with the aid of some students and staff she went above and beyond anything we have ever had at a Prom.
- **BVHS Staff** – The staff helped in so many ways including serving as chaperones, handling tickets, and pitching in on Friday to help transform the Commons. **Kevin Brick** with his help making the PAC a great venue for the Promenade, secretaries **Lynn Bartscher**, **Jeanie Bruggeman** and **Jessica Henson** for handling the barrage of calls.
- **Custodians** – This group assisted with the set-up, clean-up, clearing the lot... I want to especially recognize **Mike Heesch** for the hours he put in shoveling the main west entrance and the south entrance to create a safe entry for students, parents, family members and the community.
- **Wilma Kirkeby** and **Nicole Terveer** – Our two photographers both volunteered their time to help our students to capture their prom memories. By the end of the week they will both have the images uploaded and available to students and family members. When the sites are ready to go an email will be sent out.
- **Businesses** – So many businesses were flexible and generous that it reminds me why living where we do is such a privilege. The Shrine Mosque our home for the past 24 years refunded our entire \$1300 payment (which we reinvested in this year's prom), flower shops like Sunshine Floral, the Flower Mill and others adjusted and readjusted the order timelines as did tuxedo rental sites like the Men's Warehouse, Tip Top Tux and others. Pinnacle Productions for providing great music and for adjusting to our multiple time frames and sites. Thanks to the many hair salons that opened on Sunday to help our girls some of whom were much distressed by losing their earlier appointments. I am sure I am missing some businesses but please know how much we appreciate all of those that assisted our students.
- **Parents** – Thank you for your patience and for trying to help your students to understand that sometimes in life things do not go as planned. We appreciate what the Parent Organization tried to do in planning an After-Prom event unfortunately it was a casualty of the move to Sunday night.
- **Students** – We know this was not the prom you had envisioned and we thank you for being flexible. We know that you had numerous frustrating moments but hope that the lesson from this prom can be to keep everything in proper perspective and make the most out of a challenging situations. Sometimes memories are made by the unexpected more than the expected.

Proud to be BV!

Dr. Talcott

Mr. Schlekeway

Mr. Marso