



Statement from Belmont After School Enrichment Collaborative (BASEC) on the town-wide discussion about after school programs

The lack of access to equitable, quality out-of-school-time services in and across Belmont elementary schools has risen to a crisis point and has become a priority for the parents, schools, administrators, and elected officials to address immediately.

It is no surprise that, due to the quality and success of the BASEC programs at the Burbank and Chenery, our staff and Board have received over 100 inquiries in recent weeks asking BASEC to help solve the issue by 'just taking over' or 'to come in and set up' programs at elementary schools that are struggling with enrollment. BASEC is privileged to maintain deep and strong working relationships with BPS and school administrators, and count those as elements to our overall success and student outcomes. We have been keeping in regular contact with the Superintendent about our ongoing conversation with the community and constituencies.

BASEC's mandate has been that expansion into other schools would only happen through cooperation with BPS and school administration. In other words, we would be honored to be a part of the solution but aren't an organization that looks to circumvent BPS administration, make side deals, or appear to advance secret agendas. It is not consistent with our values or how we do business.

Given the current situation, we believe that a comprehensive, district-wide plan to provide school based-solutions will likely be the most cost-effective way forward. School-based solutions provide better outcomes for students, while providing parents the comfort of knowing that their kids are safe in a familiar environment that doesn't require complicated pick-up or transportation logistics.

Expansion into other elementary schools is aligned with BASEC's mission and abilities. We have the structure and capacity to rapidly replicate our program in other schools while simultaneously delivering an exceptional quality of service and keeping the price-point affordable. While it is true that we will have to problem-solve with BPS on space, we have done that successfully in the Burbank and Chenery. It is also true that concessions will have to be negotiated, and likely it will ask teachers and other constituencies to change routines. However, by approaching these issues with a spirit of openness and working collaboratively, there is a viable path to in-school solutions for BPS families.

About BASEC

BASEC was created in 2009 after the Burbank PTA no longer wanted to administer the after school program. After merging with the Chenery after school program, BASEC emerged as an independent, Belmont-based, 501(c)3. It is a professionally-run nonprofit focused exclusively on out-of-school time

programs. In addition to the programs at the Burbank and Chenery, we have executive function and tutoring programs at BHS, vacation programs, and evening sports programs.

BASEC is led by an Executive Director with 17 years of experience in the Belmont Public Schools, and a Nonprofit Board of Directors comprised of Belmont parents and community members. The ED ensures that program delivery adheres to BASEC's Theory of Change and remains at the forefront of best practices in the field, and that both programming and non-profit corporate practices comply with state statutes and regulations. The governing board brings a diversity of experience and insight to their role as legal and fiduciary agents.

In addition to an Executive Director, our team includes operations staff, academic specialists, an arts and culture team, Site Directors, an Inclusion/Special Education Director, a Community Service Coordinator, and many others.

BASEC's Director of Community Education and Engagement coordinates a diverse training program, ensuring that new teachers are equipped with foundational Nurtured Heart Approach and classroom management strategies, while seasoned teachers continue professional growth across a spectrum of Social Emotional Learning, Inclusion, Cultural Competency, Academic, Curriculum Development, and EEC-mandated strands.

We provide our employees benefits such as health, dental, short- and long-term disability, and life insurances, as well as continuing education reimbursement— to which we attribute our ability to attract and retain such high-quality teachers. Many of our teachers hold Master of Education degrees and many come to BASEC each day following their duties as BPS faculty and staff.

We provide over fifty thousand dollars in tuition assistance a year to families in need, have made thousands of dollars in in-kind equipment and supply contributions to Burbank and Chenery, and sponsor and secure grants for valuable training and education opportunities for our community's teachers and parents.

We are proud to be a part of the Belmont community.

Consistent with our values, and as we have discussed with BPS, BASEC stands ready to assist. We believe that the best path forward is finding an immediate and long-term solution for Belmont families; temporary 'fixes' only serve to displace children and routines and don't support the desired outcomes for academic, social/ emotional, cognitive, and physical development that Belmont children need and deserve from their community.

BASEC Board of Directors
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