

## District Accountability Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Start Time 6:04pm

### Attendance

Kaci Guthrie, Amy Ryan, Seth Bryant, Aaron Helstrom, Michelle Howell, Bill Phalen, Sean Pekron, Mike Demuth, Don Zaleski, Ali Orellana, Jessie Seibert, Tom Torrance, Ashley Lawson, Jamie Dion, Director David Rusterholtz, Director David Illingworth

Absent: Kip Shubert-excused absence, Ken Witt-excused absence

- **Welcome and Agenda Review**
  
- **Discussion Items**
  - **Family Engagement feedback from SACs**
    - Seth Bryant-Middle School SAC representative
      - What's working today:
        - Newsletter to update families and community events like the 'Color Run'
      - Opportunities:
        - Leveraging communication when they have a captive audience like sports and extracurricular events. During these events, communicate how parents can get involved in school happenings.
        - Host an academic night to support students and families on big milestones.
        - Accommodate parents with flexible schedules, provide home visits.
        - Increase parent engagement by using a text message system. Make that a part of enrollment night.
    - Aaron Helstrom-High School SAC representative
      - Opportunities:
        - Robo text, utilizing reader board at school to communicate announcements. Have all teachers on same communication system such as canvas.
        - Special needs-Lack of response from teachers on what curriculum is being taught to students, need more communication.
    - Ali Orellana-High School SAC representative
      - Parent engagement is more difficult here with this age group.
      - Opportunities:

- Students plan the activities and invite their parents. Reverse parent teacher conference (drives high participation).
- Encourage HS students to participate in community activities.
- Michelle Howell-Summit SAC representative
  - What's working today:
    - SOS and parent engagement tools. Parent teacher conferences or google meets to make contact or phone call even if they can't be in person.
    - Graded work is always going home in the "Gold Folder"-every week teachers send home for parents to review. It provides a rundown of standards and what is being covered in each subject. What was left at school, what needs to be returned.
    - Back to school night-explain test scores with parents and school choice week-highlighting opportunities in school and recruit parent volunteer.
    - Fun nights, meet and greets. Parents engage more when there is food.
    - Teachers required to have at minimum a monthly newsletter. Michelle does an email each week.
  - Opportunities:
    - For parents that don't read emails, instead do a video message.
    - Offer a multi-cultural night, all families could participate-foods, language, dancing, etc. from their culture. Gateway does an annual culture night-ELL families coordinate, represent their country. Kids have passports to go to each "country". 300-400 community members attend, takes place in the spring.
    - Partner with other elementary schools to help support childcare during parent education or meeting nights to drive higher participation.
- Jessie Siebert-Summit SAC representative
  - What is working today:
    - Parent feedback meetings
    - iReady-Tutoring for students in whatever subject the students are struggling with. For 45 minutes 2/week. Strong impact to students, shows major improvements.
  - Opportunities:
    - Concern with communication from district admin, Superintendent Ken Witt turning away parent requests for meetings and not responding to emails. Not being heard or connected. Needs a better way to engage with admin, set expectations.
    - Not easy for parents to visit during the day, must go through a volunteer class to come frequently. Would like this process to be easier.



- PSAT/SAT Math in HS, falling below 500 mark (set by State of Colorado) across all grades.
    - Elementary math benchmark-moved to Eureka math (new curriculum), trending in positive direction.
    - Offers free summer school, ½ day offering, sends home enrichment packages and reading materials for students over the summer.
    - Post-secondary
      - Doesn't have complete data for 2022, raw data shows graduation rate sits at 72.9%
      - HS Matriculation Rate is below state average.
  - 2020 not included because tests were not done that year.
- **2023-24 School Year Budget Process Presentation by Tina Cassens**
  - DAC Budget Prioritization Information FY24 presentation will be provided to DAC following the meeting.
  - Reviewed what the budget planning process and how the district forecasts.
  - District is currently working on enrollment and staff projections and hopes to have it complete prior to Spring Break.
  - Last year's budget Priorities organized by SAC/Department heads & prioritized by DAC:
    - Building/Department Needs and Wants: Staffing, services, supplies and equipment, programming, and capital improvements.
    - Tina suggests following the same process of having the SAC and staff solicit input and bring to the DAC for prioritization. Impressed the sense of urgency on having this finalized before May board meeting.
    - DAC members agreed to follow the same process as previous years.
    - SAC and staff will collect feedback and priorities in early April. Process spreadsheet will go SAC and staff next week for them to start planning and review on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The collated list will be provided to the DAC within a week.
    - DAC is to set a meeting in mid to late April to prioritize requests and provide to board. DAC Chair (Seth Bryant) will send a survey to DAC members to determine availability for the April meeting.
    - At the April meeting, DAC will prioritize the needs and pass recommendations to the board.
- Action Item
  - Approval of January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting minutes
    - Meeting minutes approved as is.
- Adjourn
  - Meeting adjourned at 8:12

Jamie Dion

DAC Secretary