SAC Minutes
September 15, 2015

I. Introductions:
Dana James
Kim Bixel
Eileen Schwab
Helene Rose
Allison Akhnoukh
Kate Ryan
Melanie Gauss
Sarah Walert
Nicole Rajpal
Principal Lisa Schuba
Rachel Namordi
Francesca Gettelman

II. Overview of SAC:
• Mandated by state law
• Needs to meet 4 times per year (we meet 7)
• Needs a community member and PTO liaison
• How to support the school: goal to support teachers and principals
• Review the climate survey, PARC (state assessment), which is then used to review improvement plan
  o E.g.: when the bullying score appeared high, SAC looked at how it might be improved
• Review budget
• Changing role of teachers over time

III. Principal’s report:
• Coming into a school with recent leadership changes has it’s challenges --- building trust and relationships will be at the center of this year’s work
• 26 years’ experience with diverse schools, and aim to be a good long-term match
• Reinforced the need for a distributive leadership model at Foothill to ensure shared decision making and consensus building atmosphere
• Concern regarding the ongoing cost paid to less qualified tutors/paras to working with students who need remediation and/or acceleration.
• Our School Leadership Team has asked for more training in differentiation, professional learning communities, and improved systems of support
• Schuba is dedicated to being an instructional leader not just a manager
• Educator Effectiveness results from Foothill showed teachers ranked lowest in the area of “reflective” practices and their TELL perception survey showed a need for improvement in the area of professional development
• An improvement model: The goals should be centered on student academic growth not just achievement alone.
  o So: dig deeper on goals
  o There can be high achievement without individual student growth (i.e. a student scores advanced in 4th grade math then advanced in 5th grade math but has lost ground and his/her overall scale score decreased).
• BVSD and Foothill initiatives:
  o BVSD strategic plan
    ▪ BVSD has had large achievement gaps, and disconnect between teachers and unions
    ▪ So: district looked for common goals and common focus: mission, vision, values and goals
    ▪ 3 goals: learning, talent and partnerships
    ▪ 6 major strategies under the 3 goals
  o At Foothill this involved looking at Unified Improvement Plan (“UIP”) to see that most of the “action steps” completed.
  o There is a new district-created UIP focusing on:
    ▪ (1) literacy (focusing on 3-years old to 3rd grade);
    ▪ (2) interventions:
      • MTSS = multi-tiered system of support
      • For each child with a shared leadership
    ▪ (3) last piece to be determined by Foothill
      • could be climate, whole-child
• state assessment changes for 2015-16
  o will be sent out later
• gender diversity
  o push to make school less gender-biased
  o staff has had training and parents will have it later
  o aim is to make school gender neutral and be more inclusive
• “the ideal school day”
  o created to address inequities in minutes of teaching between schools
  o seeking feedback from parents and staff regarding total minutes, blocks
  o seeks to improve interventions and keep kids from being pulled out of main class
• “gold assessment”
  o focusing on readiness of the child
  o different developmental domains
  o has received pushback from kindergarten kids
  o very teacher intensive
• Draft UIP due November 6
  o Final UIP April
• Discussion on assessment:
  o State-wide 50% effectiveness (TCAP); 50% 5 standards
• Boulder has moved slowly on incorporating the 5 standards
  o How can we change to growth mindset
    ▪ Using data to guide instruction
  o Deal outcomes: inter-relator rubric; basing strategies on data; goal setting
• There will be evaluation of every teacher every year
• Professional development
  o PLCs: grade-level meetings twice a month
    ▪ Also grade-level planning daily during specials
  o Professional learning communities twice a month
  o One aim is vertical alignment of learning
• What can SAC do for Principal Schuba?
  o The UIP will drive conversations
• One of the biggest questions for November UIP draft:
  o What do we want for third goal
  o Can it be culture & climate? Bullying?
    ▪ There was a follow-up survey with revised questions for bullying survey last year
    ▪ Need for more adults in lunch room
    ▪ Parent volunteers?
    ▪ Organized recess activities for at least some kids?
    ▪ There used to be playground student-ambassadors
    ▪ Research suggests need for more focus on bully-targets

IV. 2015-2016 PTO Budget
• PTO did not meet fundraising goal
• BVSD forecasted decreased enrollment, but it has been steady.
  o District will not reimburse
• Last spring funding priorities were set
  o But there was not enough information to set the priorities
  o Not all priorities communicated to parent population can be met
• $17K spent on community liaison to reach out to families in need
  o Is that a PTO issue? Is it too much on a service from which not many students benefit?
    ▪ Our representative can bring up at DAC
    ▪ Any possibility of grants?
  o But this was a high teacher priority: driving improvement for all
• Electronic survey went out today

V. DAC report
• Bruce Messinger seemed to have perspective that DAC should be more representative of entire community to make the DAC more productive
• DAC composition
o 3 parents; at least 1 teacher; at least 1 administrator
o DAC will make recommendations to Board of Education

VI. DPC report
• Meeting is next week

VII. PEN: parent engagement network
• To address suicide and substance abuse
• PEN representative reaches out to DAC for coordination
• Rachel is interested in bringing in speakers and joint ventures with Crestview
  o Possible speakers: Lisa Shenken (health & wellness); Travis Maron (sports & parent involvement); (yoga & mindfulness—possible lifelong learning yoga teacher?)

VIII. Girls’ leadership institute
• District approved classes