

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
 - 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 its 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.
 - So: dig deeper on goals
 - 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:
 - 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
 - At Foothill this involved looking at Unified Improvement Plan (“UIP”) to see that most of the “action steps” completed.
 - 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
 - will be sent out later
- gender diversity
 - push to make school less gender-biased
 - staff has had training and parents will have it later
 - aim is to make school gender neutral and be more inclusive
- “the ideal school day”
 - created to address inequities in minutes of teaching between schools
 - seeking feedback from parents and staff regarding total minutes, blocks
 - seeks to improve interventions and keep kids from being pulled out of main class
- “gold assessment”
 - focusing on readiness of the child
 - different developmental domains
 - has received pushback from kindergarten kids
 - very teacher intensive
- Draft UIP due November 6
 - Final UIP April
- Discussion on assessment:
 - State-wide 50% effectiveness (TCAP); 50% 5 standards

- Boulder has moved slowly on incorporating the 5 standards
 - How can we change to growth mindset
 - Using data to guide instruction
 - Deal outcomes: inter-relator rubric; basing strategies on data; goal setting
- There will be evaluation of every teacher every year
- Professional development
 - PLCs: grade-level meetings twice a month
 - Also grade-level planning daily during specials
 - Professional learning communities twice a month
 - One aim is vertical alignment of learning
- *What can SAC do for Principal Schuba?*
 - The UIP will drive conversations
- One of the biggest questions for November UIP draft:
 - What do we want for third goal
 - 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.
 - District will not reimburse
- Last spring funding priorities were set
 - But there was not enough information to set the priorities
 - Not all priorities communicated to parent population can be met
- \$17K spent on community liaison to reach out to families in need
 - 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?
 - 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

- 3 parents; at least 1 teacher; at least 1 administrator
- 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
 - 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