

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL SAC MINUTES

Date: February 13, 2025

Opening: Mr. Smith at 5:03 PM

Present: Joe Aida, Michael Bibbs, Shelley Bibbs, Terrie Blackwell, Delia Busby, Robert Elder, Valorie Jordan, Rebecca Kenderdine, Irene Kornelly, Julie Ott, Sharon Simpson-Dogon, Jackie Wick,

Absent: Cindy Angeles, Kasnyme Coke, Shay Dabney, Shatarie Johnson, Edward Mouchette, Alyssa Webb, Michael Williams, Cassie Booth

Agenda Presentation

Approval of Minutes: January minutes were approved by the chairperson, Mr. Bibbs

Business from Previous Meeting: None

New Business:

1. A Colorado Department of Education commissioner's visit occurred on a 2-hour delay day. Because the systems in the school are tightly established, Mr. Smith and the staff didn't miss a beat on that day. The commissioner was impressed by security, safety, commitment, and clear instructional alignment focus. Student tasks are at the center of work at MHS. Mr. Gaal was complimentary, especially with staff changes having occurred between last school year and this one, including instructional specialists and the assistant principal. Mitchell's having moved from Turnaround to Priority Improvement back to Turnaround statuses means that MHS will report to the State Board of Education in May. PSAT/SAT performance and post-secondary/workforce readiness metrics must be evident. We still have work to do. Mr. Gaal provided to the commissioner an overview of the district and school, including declining district enrollment, neighborhood demographics, and their impact on MHS. Dual language immersion, STEAM, arts, outdoor integration, and aviation are program highlights

Student focus

SAVVAS curriculum is used in math. "Getting students vertical" is a motto of the program wherein students demonstrate their understanding of math concepts through work at white boards.

Teacher focus

Professional development (PD) has included Text First Instruction. MHS, through a grant, hired the same consultant to provide an extension of the district's PD.

Tier I Core Instruction

Instructional empowerment or student agency is key.

Mr. Smith shared with the commissioner the SPF and MIS focuses that we have received in the past. Data sharing has been consistent.

Attendance

Pre-election attendance was 88.9; now it's in mid 80s

Staffing

Use of a stability grant and incentives were used attract and retain teachers.
14% of staff are in the 100% club.

2. Mr. Smith informed us, as he had already told the staff, that Mr. Gaal's recommendation to the D11 Board of Education will be that Mitchell be managed by a third party, namely

Instructional Empowerment (IE). Mr. Smith doesn't know what that will look like, but he is sad about possibly losing the innovation that has moved Mitchell's students in a positive direction so far. The SAC had the following questions:

- What happened between two meetings ago when the SAC was told that Mr. Smith had no appetite for Mitchell's being taken over? Answer (A): ... Not Mr. Smith's recollection. He recalls saying that the school would not be reconstituted. (Secretary's note: What's the difference between 3rd-party management and reconstitution?)
- Can 3rd-party management and innovation plans work in concert? A: Mr. Smith doesn't know.
- Can the management team come and provide answers to the staff? A: Reps from IE will be on campus to do a conditions check in March. SAC will be informed as to when.
- Why was the SAC not informed by the BoE of 3rd-party management? Answer provided by Director Julie Ott: The Board of Education was not made aware of the impending recommendation.
- Will there be overhead for the school? A: We don't know.
- Who chooses the public/private management entity? A: Central admin, apparently
- Have any other schools been through such a management decision? A: No.
- When are we going to have answers? A: Mr. Smith will do research in the coming couple of weeks.

SAC will request a meeting with Mr. Gaal.

3. Mr. Elder presented literacy and math data and the barriers to improvement. 9th-graders enter MHS at a 5th-grade reading level. At mid-year, the lowest performance group shrank and each other performance group improved. 10th-graders also grew from fall to winter. 11th-graders showed phenomenal growth from fall to winter. Working with Mr. Blankenship, Mr. Elder determined the nine skills that each student needed to work on most — data from Star to work with No Red Ink.

Star Reading (online district program), Choice reading program (in library), Tier 1 instruction, and student accountability, Read Theory, Ed Ready, Khan Academy & Khanmigo.

Current labor problem due to non-renewal of the teaching contract will result in turmoil.

4. Mr. Bibbs is still working on meeting with the school's leaders to had more cooperation and less competition among them. He also wants to converse with feeder students.

5. Mr. Smith will invite instructional interventionists to the next SAC meeting and hopes to have more answers for the SAC.

Adjournment: 6:32 PM by Mr. Smith