

Oakes SAC Meeting Notes

August 6, 2020

Participants

- Principal: Derek Fleshman
- Dean: Brian Wood
- Teachers: Jules Daley, Nadene Klein
- Parents: Barbara Hannington, Victoria Hostin, Laura Welch
- Students: Tajahnae Wilson
- Community: Rebekah Brooks
- Recorded by: Emily Hopkins

Structure of SAC Meetings

- SAC bylaws on the school website, in SAC handbook ([found here](#))
- Vote on Chairpeople etc will be during the next meeting. Bylaws signed the next meeting.
- Four meetings per year at 6:00 pm, committing to 90 minutes or less
 - Future meetings: October 22, January 28, and MONDAY, April 19
- Consensus instead of formal voting structure, unless bylaws require otherwise
- Virtual meetings will continue, with the SAC Agenda posted on the website or emailed out prior to each meeting. GoogleMeet Calendar invites will be shared to SAC members prior to each meeting.
- Teacher Representative: Brian Wood
- Non-voting member and minutes recorder: Emily Hopkins
- [Effective School Accountability Community](#)
- [Quarterly Calendar of Responsibility](#)
- [Membership and Officers](#)

Reflection on starting the school year

- Parents and students are grateful that DC Oakes is open again, and are happy to be back at school. Overall students are doing well, even with the addition of PPE and social distancing, but they have missed being in school. Some students are struggling with online learning, but like the new split-day schedule.
- Teacher perspective:
 - Klein: It is so much better to be back in the building than online learning; teachers are able to read students better in person with expressions and body language to meet their needs. Building relationships with students is slower this quarter because interaction is limited. For example, sanitizing tables after each class keeps teachers from interacting with students between classes in the commons, and there is currently no Outdoor Ed program. So far things are going well, but some students are struggling with one online assignment per week, and teachers are seeing a slight drop in grades. Virtual learning doesn't fit with Oakes culture

or curriculum. Overall, Klein feels safe when in the building and appreciates the support from Oakes parents.

- Daley: Teachers have missed interacting with students. These first 5 weeks have gone quickly, and they are proud of how well the students are doing with just even showing up for school - Daley works on attendance and students seem to be doing well in choosing to come to school. Some students have trouble with the schedule because they are isolated from friends in other classes and miss the personal interaction and social aspect of school. He talks to his students every day about keeping each other safe so they can stay in school instead of returning to remote learning. Virtual learning does not serve our student body, the students need to be interacting with other students and teachers who love them.
- Woody: Our students have responded so well to being back in school, and he is amazed at how resilient they have been. We have had little to no issues with PPE and no issues related to bullying. "Sometimes it takes losing something to remember how fortunate we are."
- Fleshman: He started the quarter by saying he wouldn't trust any other group of students to do this, and he still stands by this. Students rarely forget their masks, and are asking for masks when they need them. They are benefited by being in the building and interacting with other students and teachers. It has also been great for the teachers as well. We have reinvented the American education system twice in the past few months, and we are doing well.

Changes for Next Quarter:

- Oakes will continue with the same split schedule due to current DCSD guidelines, and introduce in-person learning on Fridays. Every other Friday half of the students will come in at their regular time (AM or PM) to increase in-person learning, which is where the students thrive. This is a great solution to the problem many students have with the online portion, and would increase in-person time with teachers. This would also allow for better tracking of student attendance and participation. There would also be more opportunities during a grading period to perform interventions and bring down the number of academic contracts.
- On the student's "off" Fridays (every other week) they will be participating in enrichment activities instead of graded work. Oakes staff will attempt to find a better way to divide the students into Morning and Afternoon sessions for next quarter in order to better meet the needs of the students and social distancing requirements. Fridays would still be half days so teachers will still have half the day to themselves for planning or professional development. This plan has the support of the SAC.

Budget:

- DCSD has required a budget cut of 1.5-1.7% for the year, which equates to roughly \$38,000 out of the Oakes budget. Budget cut has been met from the following accounts:
 - Outdoor Education: since there is no Outdoor Ed for the foreseeable future, roughly \$25,000 was cut from this portion of the budget and the extra

responsibility pay that teachers would have received from chaperoning trips. The Outdoor Ed budget for second semester and summer trips is still intact.

- Technology: Roughly \$8000 out of the technology budget, as we will not be replacing any computers or other equipment at this time. It can wait.
- Continuing Education Conference: Oakes will forgo the continuing education trip for the Principal this year, which saves an estimated \$9000.
- Oakes is viewed as a department by DCSD, and starts each school year with a zero-based budget. This means that no taxpayer dollars rollover from the spring; the only roll over into the new budget is the money that was earned with fundraisers, or through the Student Council. It is expected that funds next year will be tighter, with less coming in from the state to each school. There will be a budget update during the next meeting in October.

Fundraising:

- When will fundraising feel appropriate again? There was a letter template ready-made that could possibly be edited to be more respectful of the difficulties COVID-19 has caused to businesses and families, however, fundraising efforts would focus on corporations and not the parent community. Kind gifts would possibly go toward Outdoor Education. More brainstorming on fundraising will happen between now and the next meeting in October.

Emergency Drills:

- Students are required to use hand sanitizer before and after drills. This helps them to mentally prepare for the interruption to their day. Lockdown and Fire drills were performed in July, but no shelter drill has been practiced this quarter as of yet; socially distancing requirements do not allow for proper procedure.

Open Discussion:

- Will graduation be pushed due to the inability to provide Outdoor Ed credit? This will be decided on a case by case basis. Students should not be planning on Outdoor Ed credit to meet graduation requirements. Community service requirements have been waived for the foreseeable future
- First DAC meeting of the 2020-2021 school year this Tuesday, Aug. 11, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There are some updates to state policies around accountability and employee evaluation that will be discussed, and brainstorming ways to assist students and staff through the next few months. Click [here](#) for meeting agenda.
 - To join the DAC Zoom meeting:
<https://dcsdk12.zoom.us/j/94576923400>
Meeting ID: 945 7692 3400
+17209289299 US (Denver)

Next SAC GoogleMeet is scheduled for October 22, 2020 6:00pm