

Oakes SAC Meeting Notes

January 28, 2021

Participants

- Principal: Derek Fleshman
- Dean: Brian Wood
- Teachers: Jules Daley, Laura Matyszewski (Counselor)
- Parents: Joan Hollenbach, Laura Welch, Victoria Hostin, Royce Taylor
- Students: Dylan Welch
- Community: Rebekah Brooks
- Recorded by: Emily Hopkins

Reflection on school year so far

- Student perspective: This quarter feels less “busy” (more relaxed) than the last few quarters. Students are trying very hard to avoid quarantine, because transitioning between online and in person is very difficult.
- Teacher perspective: It has been great to be in the classroom with the new and returning students. Daley teaches new students and uses poetry to get to know the new students, and is amazed at the willingness of the new students to jump into this teaching method. Students are loving being back in school, and students who are sick are logging in from home and are excited to be cleared to return to in person learning. Wearing masks has not been an issue. Kids want to be in school and are willing to follow the rules in order to stay in person. It’s surprising how routine wearing masks and social distancing has become, and we are really proud of our students. The commons does tend to have students group together, but we are working on reminding them of social distancing.
- Principal perspective: As far as vaccinating teachers goes, Governor Polis had said that teachers would be included in 1b, but there was a shortage and teachers were taken off that list. Security, health room workers, and mental health are at the top of the school staff for access to the vaccine, as well as older staff members. We are following procedures and are looking forward to being back to normal and the Oakes culture. It has now been 4 quarters of COVID at Oakes and we are feeling it, but being patient for it to resolve. Hoping to come back full time after the next break in March, but of course, all plans could change, and that would add a lot more hoops to jump through with more people in the building at the same time. We also need to make sure we are communicating expectations with students for next quarter. We are worried about returning to a full time schedule and having kids push back due to their work schedules. A large population of students are now used to working more and earning money, and we are worried they will prioritize that over their education. The goal is to get back to a regular schedule with all the energy it brings!
- Parent perspective: Students want to go to school and that is something to celebrate. We appreciate the amount of grace the teachers have for the students. Online learning is something that many students struggle with, and new student parents see a positive

difference in learning online with Oakes staff than at previous school, and the staff makes a big difference. New student parents are seeing a completely different experience than with previous schools, and having the same schedule for both online and in person was helpful for engagement. Being in school is extremely helpful, and students also agree that being in school is the best thing for them.

Testing Schedule

- Things are constantly changing, but as of today, we are still scheduled for standardized testing for April. The District has asked for all schools to test on the same day, so that if plans need to change, all rescheduling is easier to manage. Oakes usually does a testing prep day about a week before the test day to go over pre-administrative tasks and testing tips. The test dates are as follows:
 - Oakes testing prep date: 4/6
 - CMAS testing date: Morning of 4/12
 - SAT testing date: Morning of 4/13
 - PSAT testing date: Morning of 4/14
- Additional make up-days will be added to the regular schedule to accommodate for students on quarantine, sick, etc. Each test has to start by 9 AM, so it will be an adjusted schedule with staggered arrival times. We will try to maintain 6 ft distance. SAT will be given on a school day, not a Saturday, and does not cost families because the state uses this testing data. (If students want to take the test again at another time, that would be paid for by the family).
- Testing is expected to finish around noon. The school is required to still have instruction for other students, so we might need to consider online learning that day for students who are not participating in testing. To keep social distancing of 6 ft we will need to split students into smaller groups and use classrooms instead of all testing in the commons. This would also mean more teachers would be needed to proctor.
- Last year, state testing was waived, but is unlikely to be waived again this year. There might be an option of Saturday vouchers for students who do not want to test in a large group of people. We are hopeful that CMAS isn't postponed again, because 2 years of missing data is a big gap to know where improvements can be made.
- Parents have the right to opt their student out of the test. However, when students opt out of state testing, it has a big impact on school data. We are such a small school that even one student opting out skews our data immensely.

Fundraising

- Before the pandemic (about a year ago) we were trying to think of fundraising strategies to offset Outdoor Education (OE) costs. The thought was to reach out to businesses instead of soliciting from parents of students or cash donations. Now that OE has come to a halt, is there a way to start back up with this plan?
 - Admin perspective: With regulations constantly changing, we aren't sure on a timeline, but the plan is to start trips up again as soon as there is guidance in place. OE is a huge part of our culture and we don't want it on the back burner. We have students that don't know anything about the OE at Oakes and we are

moving to make it a priority. We first need to check with OE staff to see how comfortable they are with the idea. Currently, OE is expected to start again in March 2022. Students who go on trips have a much better chance of graduating because they have friends and staff that they know support them. We are very passionate about getting it up and running again.

- Student perspective: The new kids have been asking older kids about OE and are interested to know more and go on these trips.
- Teacher perspective: A full year now of not being able to offer OE trips seems to have torn a hole in our culture and community, and we have students whose whole time at Oakes has not included any OE. It's important to staff to get it back and share it in our culture again and have these amazing educational experiences and make lifetime friendships.
- Parent perspective: If transportation is the issue, what about a local hike? Could parents provide transportation? (A: DCSD has forbidden any field trips currently.) Since students are 16+, and the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for 16+, could the school possibly have proof of vaccination for trips to start up earlier than next March? (A: Possible to explore this thought, but would also potentially cause other issues).

DAC Liason report

- Not a lot of updates, no change from last year
- DCSD is using data from 2019 since no test scores from last year.
- Budget survey
 - Advocating for fees to be reduced across the district - reduce student fees, because some students come to our school with over \$1000 in fees. As of December 2020, bookkeepers have authority to wipe fees (depending on situation and principal authorization). DCSD is the highest grossing school for My School Bucks.
 - D.C. Oakes needs to advocate for transportation. Why is it not equitable as other schools?
 - Support student nutrition for schools without a kitchen service

Safety/security update

- Lockdown drill last week
- Fire Drill this week
- Lockout drill
- Updated security cameras
- Interviewing new security guard next week

Budget

- SBB due next month, we can change it afterward, will discuss next meeting ●
Going to request music/art teacher when we obtain the back building (DLMC).

Open Discussion

- How are teachers doing? What can we do to support them?
 - No volunteers currently allowed in the building, but we do have a volunteer group come and serve food every so often outside the building. Supporting with food seems to be a good morale boost. 20 staff, about 120 students.
- Email blast PT Conferences again. Not a lot of response from parents to schedule PT conferences, want to include parents in Oakes culture but COVID has put a damper on that.

**Next SAC Meeting Scheduled for
MONDAY April 19, 2021 6:00pm**

GoogleMeet or In-Person TBD