

SAC Meeting: Friday, September 19th, 2025

The SAC meeting at Holmes Middle School highlighted the school's strong performance, with a 73.1% overall school performance framework score, leading in ELA and second in math in District 11. The school has 603 students, a slight drop from the projected 610. Efforts are underway to retain neighborhood students, with successful outreach to feeder schools like Chipeta. The school is implementing new Eureka Math and ELA curricula and addressing student growth through data-driven assessments. The principal emphasized the importance of teacher support, student agency, and community engagement to enhance student performance and retention.

Outline

Performance and Enrollment Overview

- Speaker 1 highlights the diverse student body, including families from various schools
- The school has a top-tier performance with a 73.1% overall school performance framework, leading in ELA and second in math.
- Emphasis on balancing high expectations with a caring environment, with teachers taking ownership and maintaining a high level of passion.
- The school has a mix of veteran teachers and new educators, including those with alternative licensures, bringing diverse perspectives.

Challenges and Strategies for Student Retention

- Speaker 1 discusses the challenge of retaining students, noting that the school loses some students to neighboring districts like Eagle View, Manitou, and Cheyenne Mountain.
- Efforts to fortify the pipeline by meeting with principals from feeder schools and ensuring students choose Holmes Middle School.
- Speaker 1 mentions a successful year with 100% of 5th graders from Chipeta choosing Holmes Middle School.
- Plans to visit Jackson Elementary and speak to 5th graders about the benefits of staying within the district.

Principal's Vision and Leadership Style

- Speaker 1 shares their personal connection to District 11 and the decision to return to Holmes Middle School.

- Emphasis on continuous improvement and the importance of student performance and growth.
- Speaker 1 describes their hands-on approach, frequently interacting with students and teachers, and the joy of working in schools.
- The principal's commitment to serving students and the community, and the importance of maintaining a positive school environment.

Academic Achievements and Growth

- Speaker 1 presents the school's official SPF, highlighting a score of 71.5% and meeting all areas of achievement.
- Discussion on subgroups struggling, particularly students with disabilities, and the impact of COVID-19 on these students.
- Implementation of Eureka Math curriculum and the challenges it brings, along with the district-wide end-of-module assessments.
- The importance of using data to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments, ensuring continuous improvement.

Middle School Accountability and Support Systems

- Introduction of the Middle School Accountability System to address student regression in middle school.
- Identification of at-risk students and implementation of a math intervention program.
- Emphasis on improving MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) to support both struggling and high-performing students.
- The role of community service, social emotional learning, and family engagement in strengthening the school system.

Instructional Coaching and Teacher Development

- The role of instructional coaches like Jenny Miller in supporting teachers through coaching cycles and data analysis.
- The importance of data-driven instruction and the impact of new curriculum on teacher performance.
- Speaker 1's approach to balancing structure and creativity in teaching, allowing teachers flexibility based on their performance.

- The significance of teacher feedback and continuous professional development in improving student outcomes.

Student Agency and Engagement

- Introduction of student agency to give students ownership in their learning.
- Examples of teachers using instructional empowerment training to create engaging and relevant learning experiences.
- The impact of student agency on student motivation and performance.
- The role of positive behavior support systems and reward systems in fostering a positive school culture.

Community and Family Engagement

- Efforts to engage families and the community through events like the Fall Festival and school visits.
- The importance of building trust and responsiveness to parent concerns.
- The role of student representatives in promoting the school and engaging with feeder schools.

Future Plans and School Improvement

- Discussion on the potential for a new middle school building as part of a \$750 million bond issue.
- The impact of modern facilities on student retention and school choice.
- Speaker 1's vision for the school's future, including continued improvement in student performance and growth.
- The importance of maintaining a strong pipeline of talented teachers and effective leadership.

Addressing Challenges and Supporting Teachers

- Acknowledgment of the challenges faced by teachers, including the implementation of new curriculum and managing student behavior.
- The importance of addressing parent concerns and providing support to teachers who may need improvement.
- Speaker 1's commitment to ensuring the best teachers are in front of students every day.

- The role of professional development and coaching in supporting teacher growth and student success.