

SAC Meeting 1/16/26 – Holmes Middle School

This meeting covered several key points. The school was recognized as the top middle school in Colorado Springs by the Best of Springs magazine! Staffing changes were reviewed. Winter STAR results were shared. The 2026 bond issue will fund a new school building, expected to start construction in December. Enrollment projections for 2026-2027 were discussed, as well as strategies to enhance student engagement and academic progress. Additionally, the team discussed the significance of extracurricular activities, such as sports, in fostering school spirit and student development.

Agenda

- Principal's Report: School Updates & Enrollment Trends
- Winter STAR Benchmark Results
- Student/Site based budgeting
- Bond Committee updates

Holmes Middle School Recognition and Community Support

- Holmes Middle School was recognized as the top middle school in Colorado Springs by the Best of Springs magazine!
- The recognition is attributed to the community's support and the school's advocacy efforts. The school's success is highlighted by the community's belief in its high performance.

Staffing Changes and Teacher Support

- Discussion about staffing changes for various positions and the importance of supporting teachers and making necessary changes to benefit students.

Upcoming Bond Issue and School Improvements

- Update on the upcoming 2026 bond issue for Holmes Middle School, which will be rebuilt.
- The bond issue will include funding for various school improvements, including new buildings and modern facilities.
- Discussion about the potential for significant school upgrades and the positive impact on the community. Suggestion to invite the District's Financial CFO to community meetings to discuss the bond issue. The goal is to ensure the bond issue passes and to communicate the benefits to the community.

Academic Performance and Intervention Strategies

- Discussion on winter STAR results, showing a slight dip in scores compared to the previous year.
- The school is implementing new curriculum and working through challenges in teaching it effectively.
- Discussion of the new MTSS schedule and the I Excel program, which aims to close gaps in student learning.
- The school is providing intensive intervention for students below grade level to improve academic performance.
- The school also has a GMP program, which impacts overall scores, but the goal is to have more Gen Ed students exceeding grade level.

Middle School Accountability Program and Student Performance

- Discussion of the Middle School Accountability Program, which holds students accountable for their behavior and academic performance. The program has led to increased student engagement and improved academic performance.
- Discussion on the importance of shared responsibility between students, parents, and the school. The program has also identified students with additional needs, leading to better support and services.

Enrollment Projections and Student-Based Budgeting

- The school's enrollment projection for the 2026-2027 school year is 640 students, and the goal is to reach 680.
- Discussion of the importance of community engagement and promoting the school to ensure high enrollment.
- The school is exploring ways to improve connections with feeder schools and increase student interest.

Teacher Cadet Program and Community Connections

- Introduction of the Teacher Cadet Program, which allows high school students to observe and learn from teachers at Holmes Middle School.
- The program aims to build a strong connection between the school and the community.
- The program has been well-received by both high school students and teachers at Holmes Middle School.

Discussion on Pre-AP Courses & School Strategic Decisions

- Discussion on the importance of offering pre-AP courses in subjects like art and robotics to keep students engaged and help them earn additional credits.
- The graduation requirements in District 11 have increased from 46 to 50 credits.
- The discussion highlights the importance of having a strong pre-AP program, athletic programs, and new facilities to attract students.

- Discussion on the importance of being ready for state assessments without compromising the overall school experience.

Action Items

- Organize and host an evening SAC meeting to present bond information and invite Brandon Comfort to speak and answer community questions.
- Coordinate with Lauren and community activators to create and distribute bond/rebuild messaging to the Holmes community (liaison role and outreach to local voter base).
- Post open teaching/staff positions at the end of March to widen the applicant pool and begin hiring for anticipated openings.
- Implement the I Excel program across grade levels and integrate it into interventions to close student learning gaps (part of MTSS intervention plan)

People in attendance: Deb Busier, Kayleigh Glaspie-Biondo, Denise LaPlante, Jenna Miller, Lauren Blazis Walker, Kyle Chamberlain