

SAC Meeting 8/28/26 – Holmes Middle School

Overview

The meeting discussed D11's new initiative focused on student agency and high-quality instruction, emphasizing ownership in learning. Initial CMAS proficiency scores showed a slight decline, with Holmes Middle School achieving 50.4% in ELA and 37.7% in math. The district is addressing student growth through intervention programs and the new Catalyst program for struggling students. The bond proposal for a new Holmes Middle School was highlighted, with a potential \$85 million investment. Holmes School is experiencing high enrollment, with every grade level at capacity for the first time since the program's relocation. The next SAC workshop is scheduled for September 1, focusing on SAC education and leadership.

Agenda:

- Orientation of new SAC members/attendees: What is SAC and why does it matter?
- Detailed review of school Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) and instructional focus for 2026-2027
- New to Holmes-staff update, outdoor project
- Bond Update and School Based Budgeting Check in
- Important date- Tuesday, September 1 from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM at Jenkins Middle

Instructional Coaching and Support

- Discussion of the district's shift from a top-heavy organization to a focus on instructional coaching. The role of school-embedded coaches, who teach part-time and support teachers, is explained.
- The structured process of coaching cycles for all staff members is outlined.

Student Data and Growth

- Presentation of data from the CMAS proficiency scores, showing a slight decline in ELA and math scores.
- The implementation of the Amplify curriculum is mentioned as a potential cause for the decline.
- The challenge of growing students who are already at grade level is discussed, with a focus on intervention supports.
- The importance of understanding each student's learning needs and providing appropriate support is emphasized.

Intervention Programs

- The Catalyst program at North Middle School and Russell Middle School is introduced as a support system for struggling students.
- The process of identifying and supporting students through intervention is detailed, including the role of parents and counselors.

- The impact of the Catalyst program on student performance and the importance of maintaining student engagement are discussed.

Teacher and Staff Hiring.

- The focus on hiring high-quality teachers and staff to support student growth is emphasized.
- The role of special education teachers and the importance of having a dyslexia specialist are discussed.
- The impact of new staff members on the school's culture and student outcomes is noted.

School Facilities and Improvements

- Discussion on the completion of an outdoor education project, which has improved the school's appearance and functionality.
- The need for repainting the parking lot striping is mentioned as an ongoing project.
- The challenges of district transportation and the impact on student pick-up and drop-off times are highlighted.
- The potential benefits of a new school building, if the bond passes, are discussed, including improved facilities and increased student engagement.

Community Engagement and Bond Support

- The importance of educating the community about the benefits of the bond and addressing their concerns is emphasized.
- Discussion of the need for a Q&A session with neighbors to address their questions and concerns.
- The role of community leaders in supporting the bond is highlighted.

Enrollment and Budgeting Updates

- Discussion of current enrollment status, noting that every grade level is at capacity for the first time since the program moved to Holmes School.
- The sixth-grade class is particularly large, with around 230 students, which is beneficial for student-based budgeting in District 11.
- The success of sending 11 students to Catalyst has brought in \$100,000 in student-based budget dollars, which can be used for additional support or programming.

Future Agenda and SAC Workshop

- The first SAC workshop at Jenkins Middle School is scheduled for September 1, focusing on SAC education and leadership training.
- Discussion on the importance of attending SAC workshops to educate the community about the bond and its impact.

People in attendance: Denise LaPlante, Rachel Denkwalter, Jessica Ulanski, Lauren Blazis Walker, Kyle Chamberlain, Sara Debusk