SAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions
- Principal update
- Safety update
- CMAS data re: achievement and growth
- Attendance team update
- Teacher update
- DAC update
- Adjourn

Committee Members (Present):

- Chair: Laura Murray
- Vice Chair: Lana Taussig
- Recorder: Ben Knopf
- DAC Rep: Clay Weiland
- PGEA Liaison: Lizzie Donlin
- Community Member: Open
- Teacher Rep: Michelle Bender
- Principal: Kelly Coonts

Additional attendees:

1. Jackie Strange
2. Theresa Barnes
3. Jennifer O'Leary

Principal update by Principal Kelly Coonts:

- New flashers at the crosswalk on Stonegate Parkway just south/southeast of school parking lot. This is the result of four years' working with the county. Community loves the change and the improvements to safety for schooltime and anytime use.
- DCSD & Me: PGE is piloting new toddler story time program to invite families with young children (ages 0-2 years old) to consider DCSD. This follows an initiative in past years where DCSD gave onesies to newborns. The first story time will take place Nov. 30 in the library; subsequent meetings in 2027 on the last Monday of every month January-April.
- PLCs continuing and going well!

CMAS achievement, growth data by DCSD Chief Learning Services Officer Matt Reynolds:

- PGE is doing very well on many metrics. School is on a "Performance Plan" based on 2026 CMAS results and prior year trends.
    - Academic achievement at "exceeds" (blue) >> New John Irwin award!
    - Academic growth at "meets" (green)
- Changes coming in spring 2027

    - State law required review of CMAS testing format
    - Findings indicated that reducing math and science from 3 to 2 testing units wouldn't affect validity of results, so that change will go into effect in spring
    - ELA format will stay the same
- Group discussion covered:
    - Performance of students with IEPs is compared to ALL students
    - Overall participation is highly correlative to overall score*
    - Free and reduced lunch (FRL) numbers are not necessarily down. CO is one of 13 states in a pilot program to use Medicaid participation for pre-qualification.
    - PGE is closing the gap in performance between gen. pop. and special education
    - Doing well in both growth (change year over year) and achievement is difficult, however it can be done. Often find pockets of high-performing elementary schools in the same area. PGE students going to middle school more prepared – Sierra Middle School principal commended PGE principal on performance in writing
    - *SAC can encourage families and students to participate (counteract opt-outs)
        - Colorado is a state that explicitly allows opt outs
        - Testing participation >> testing scores >> awards >> enrollment >> funding (and cycle repeats)
    - Factors contributing to PGE's consistent achievement:
        - Targeted instruction through PLCs
        - Same curriculum across DCSD – students who move schools are moving within same ecosystem of instruction; teachers can observe at other schools
        - Common curriculum and language vertically (from grade to grade)
        - Closing gaps for individuals more quickly – greater responsiveness in interventions

Attendance team update by Asst. Principal Jen O'Leary, Counselor Jackie Strange:

- 26-27 is the 4th year of structured approach to maximizing students' time in the classroom (measured in instructional minutes)
- Missing just 2 days/month can affect academic success
- Team at PGE strategizes with and supports families in improving attendance, recognizing that with elementary school population, attendance is not totally in the child's control

    - Depending on number of missed days, team may call, send letters, or ladder up to DCSD for further support
    - Tight-knit community of PGE helps with knowing families' experiences and how that may be affecting student attendance
- In the past three school years, PGE students have averaged about 94% attendance
- Striving to reach 96% attendance team for 26-27 school year with challenge and tracking for all to see. Every Panther Counts!
- Attendance team asks for SAC support in sharing family perspectives on attendance, strengthening communication with families about the importance of consistent school attendance, and connecting families with resources to help maintain attendance
- Attendance team also reminds parents it's best to call the 24-hour attendance line to report absences

Teacher update by 6th Grade Teacher Michelle Bender:

- Used 11/6 professional development day to continue depth and complexity discussions and training
- PGE choir sang at the Nuggets game last week
- Thank you to PGEA for funding that is making field trips possible:
    - 3rd grade went to the zoo last week
    - Several classes planning trips to DMNS to correlate with classroom learning
    - 6th grade may use some funding to support outdoor ed
- Apple awards go to: Kindra Evans (2nd) and Theresa Barnes

DAC update by DAC Rep Clay Weiland:

- Efforts underway to improve communication between SACs and DAC
- 12/1 is a listening session for elementary school parents; virtual session
- Teacher and staff evaluations will stay the same this year; next year will bring changes
- Parent requested update on AI safety/internet safety at PGE

Next meeting dates:

- Tuesday, February 9th, 2027: Joint PGEA/SAC meeting to review Budget
- Wednesday, April 7th, 2027: Safety (physical/online)

SAC meeting adjourned: 7:30 PM