

Minutes of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **District Accountability Committee Meeting**

Sargent School District

The District Accountability Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Dos Rios Restaurant in Monte Vista, CO. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 by chairperson Theresa Kaiser-Griffin.

Present at the meeting: Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Michele Peterson, Brian Crowther, Shelley David, Kristin Stambaugh, Christa Davis, Gina Stephens, Joni Hemmerling, Michelle Burkhart, and Nina Carbutt. A quorum was not present.

Minutes of the January meeting were available, but minutes from the March meeting were not available. When a quorum is present, minutes from the January, March, and September meetings will need to be approved.

### **Principals/Superintendent Updates**

Principal Joni Hemmerling provided the following updates for the elementary school.

- a. PTO held a meeting earlier today (September 8<sup>th</sup>).
- b. Back to School night is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm, if school is not cancelled due to weather.
- c. A Project Showcase opportunity is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, but may be moved due to election day.
- d. A fundraiser for Mrs. Maestas, who was recently diagnosed with cancer a second time, will be held September 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7 pm. PTO and Mitchell Farms are donating chili and potatoes. Each grade (K-12) was asked to donate additional supplies, i.e. packaged silverware, dessert, etc. Dinner is \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults. A silent and dessert auction will be held.
- e. Enrollment is down slightly. However, additional out of district (Del Norte) students have enrolled. Currently 34 students are online in the elementary. The elementary remains flexible in allowing students to return from online instruction to in-person education.
- f. A goal for the elementary this school year is to improve the overall math score to 85% of students showing one year of growth. Every teacher/class is encouraged to spend time reviewing math facts.

Principal Shelley David provided the following updates for the junior high/high school.

- a. The aviation class would like to create a club. This will be presented to the school board at the next meeting.
- b. Fourteen students in the junior high/high school have elected to receive online instruction. Less flexibility is available for high school students to return to in-person education due to requirements for obtaining graduation credits.
- c. FFA – students are preparing for an upcoming competition.

Superintendent Mr. Crowther provided the following updates for the district.

- a. Discussion around the coronavirus took place. Staying safely in school is the goal. A screening process is in place for students, staff, and visitors. Additionally, the school expects to see an increase in absenteeism.
- b. Gina Stephens was commended for her work in preparing for the safe return to school. State and federal guidelines continue to be reviewed and applied to the school. A grant was obtained for a part-time nurse to work 160 hrs.
- c. CHSAA guidelines may be changing, which may allow football in the fall instead of the spring. Information is expected to be released September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Open Issues**

### Budget Update

Mr. Crowther explained the 2020-2021 budget is tight, but education and programs continue to be maintained. There is a shortfall, but \$300,000 in CoVid funding is offsetting the deficit. \$100,000 of this money is allocated for supplies and the other \$200,000 will be used as needed. The school district is not having to use any reserve money.

### Project-based learning

Each grade level is completing two projects per semester. However, maintaining physical distancing is a challenge for students.

### Leader in Me

Nina Carbutt shared that classroom mission statements have been developed in the elementary. The emotional environment of the classroom has improved with the help of these expectations. Student “buy-in” is also evident. 7 Habits posters will be developed by each class in art. Teacher action teams are in place for the first semester and the goal is to have student action teams in place for the second semester.

In the junior high/high school, both teachers and students have created goals. A parent “light house” meeting will be held September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

## **New Business**

### Election of Officers

Tabled to the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

### 2020-21 Board Directives

The board directives were reviewed with the DAC committee. Michele Peterson assisted with prioritizing each of the directives.

1. Feedback regarding last spring's on-line program with suggestions that could be utilized for future purpose – high priority
2. Performance evaluation, develop and modify plan – low priority
3. Help research and market topics for Friday school program – low priority
4. Review budget with prioritizing areas of focus – January
5. Review and provide input on upcoming school calendars – January/March
6. Help with marketing for Sargent School – low priority

Michele explained that if the school were forced to return to online learning, what would improve the experience? After some discussion, it was decided to survey the members of the ABC and PTO committees. Perspectives from both the junior high/high school and elementary school will be obtained without sending a district-wide survey. Christa Davis and Theresa Kaiser-Griffin will develop questions to review with these groups at their next meeting.

### Meeting dates and frequency

No changes were made to the meeting dates and frequency. Those present felt there was better success with the meetings when held in a restaurant and every other month.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Dos Rios restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Kaiser-Griffin