

Minutes of September 14, 2021

## District Accountability Committee Meeting

Sargent School District

On Tuesday, September 14, 2021, the DAC held a meeting at Dos Rios Restaurant. President Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Present at the meeting, constituting a quorum were the following: Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Kyler J. Brown, Nicole Rockey, Lacie Paulson, Michelle Burkhart, Danielle Price, Michele Peterson. Also present at the meeting: Parker Ford, Stacey Plane, STUCO head boy Parker Ford, Principal Joni Hemmerling, and Superintendent Brian Crowther.

Nicole Rockey made a motion to approve the agenda and Michelle Burkhart seconded the motion and the agenda was approved. Nicole Rockey made a motion to approve the previous minutes taken April 20, 2021 and Kyler Brown seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

**High School Principal** Shelly David was out of town, but sent notes to be discussed. Mentioned were homecoming theme of "Peter Pan" homecoming activities/dress up days: Monday-Labor Day/No School, Tuesday- Black and Gold Day, 6:30 Girls's Powderpuff football game, Wednesday- Favorite Disney Character Day, 6:30 Boys Powderpuff volleyball game, Thursday- Red/White/Blue Day, 6 PM Community Dinner, Bonfire at dusk, street dance after, Friday- Homecoming Color Day, Seniors-Blue, Juniors-Green, Sophomores- Orange, and Freshmen-Pink, 8<sup>th</sup> grade- Yellow, 7<sup>th</sup> grade- Red, Elementary-Purple, and Staff/Parents- Black. Also contained information on community BBQ and open house held September 13, 2021; parents would visit secondary staff members and see club options and upcoming activity information. The new secondary staff hired: Ms. Sarah Schaller teaching Agriculture and shop classes, she is also FFA sponsor, Ms. Lexi Wingert teaching JH English, 12<sup>th</sup> grade English, and JH speech, Mr. Brody David teaching HS science, Healthcare lab and JH Career lab, Mr. Don Sherden returns to teach part-time PE/Health. I will attach these notes in the minutes. Also mentioned Picture Day would be held September 15, 2021. Dates for upcoming HS sports including football, golf, cross country and JH cross country were mentioned. Mrs. David mentioned her monthly newsletters that are sent out at the beginning of each month through IC Messenger, Facebook, and on the Sargent Website: <https://www.smore.com/p2480> and Elementary Link: <https://www.smore.com/p0d7s-august-2020>. Mrs. Hemmerling and Mrs. David both applied and were accepted into the Colorado Department of Education Principal Leadership Institute program(CDE). They will begin their training monthly starting the week of September 20, 2021 going through May 13, 2022.

**Elementary School Principal** Joni Hemmerling gave information of the Elementary news. Current enrollment numbers broken down into grades, the total enrollment for Elementary is 187. Elementary gained more students than they lost from last year. Elementary hires: Kelsea Kimberling 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Danielle Price Elementary Counselor, Charity Walker PE teacher. Special dates mentioned: Open House- September 13; Picture Day- September 15; Swimming Lessons dates October 4-6<sup>th</sup> and October 11<sup>th</sup>. Special dates also mentioned including Pumpkin Patch, Holidays, Veteran's Day Program, End of Quarter dates, etc. She provided a breakdown of all the teachers and their goals for their specific grades and specials. Mrs. Hemmerling also spoke about her and Mrs. David being accepted to the CDE program. Mrs. Hemmerling's notes will be attached at the end of the minutes.

Danielle Price, Elementary Counselor brought a brochure to explain what she does as a school counselor to encourage mental health in students. She works with kids who are self-referred, parent referred, administrative, teacher or other staff referred, and friend referred. She can make referrals for

community resources. She has her Master's Degree in Social Work, has spent the last 10 years working in different aspects of the child protection and foster care system. This job is from a 4 year grant, and in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> year the grant is renewable.

Kyler Brown asked Joni about the Health and Wellness Grant. Secondary nurse was used with the grant. Stephanie McFarlund is the grant person for Sargent.

Joni spoke about the new math curriculum which ties in with the common core. The math departments studies math programs to decide which one would be best and chose "Reveal Math". The new program will also help instruct teachers how to teach math. The ESSER money is used to make up for lost education. They received constructive criticism with Accelerated Reading, and decided to make math a more prominent focus. They are encouraging math habits and building kids up for college math, filling in math holes.

STUCO head boy Parker Ford came and gave a report on High School happenings. He said the Big Brother/Big Sister is starting back, with the idea to involve kids in community service. The Highschoolers will also help with Smile for a Mile. He said the students during Homecoming all had positive attitudes, and the most school spirit he had seen. Everyone was happy and helpful in pulling Homecoming through even when the football game seemingly was cancelled, but they were able to fill in the game and played Los Animas.

Mrs. Durre, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Behil, and Mrs. Rocky got a fundraiser together to give to Centauri School as they are mourning the loss of two students. \$3,000 was raised in the "Farmers Love Falcons" fundraiser. Los Animas also posted on Facebook how Sargent School had a moment of silence to honor Los Animas students who were killed in a car accident. Sargent showed empathy and love in these acts of kindness to schools who are suffering.

**Superintendent Report:** Brian Crowder said the Falcon Superintendent spoke of Centauri's great appreciation for Sargent's support, empathy, and compassion. He spoke about what areas does Sargent school need to work on, any revisions to district charge? There is a unified effort in same direction with school board. Math is a priority district wide. Communication needs to be improved with teachers/parents/students. The teachers were asked how can Sargent do better? And they and the Board gave ideas and they're trying to implement what they can. He appreciates positive attitudes and willingness to work hard to get things done. They are exploring ways to involve community more.

### **Open Issues:**

2021-2022 Budget Update- ESSER Money is short term; provided through the state to provide supplies such as masks, and health safety supplies, and instructional academic loss because of COVID. In 2 years ESSER funding will be gone. The Budget Stabilization Factor was reduced. State couldn't make commitment to schools. Six months ago state shorted Sargent \$500,000 but the legislature has committed to provide the reoccurring fund of \$286,000 to Sargent. Most of teacher positions were filled, except for Elementary Art Teacher. Homeroom teachers are welcome to use art supplies in art room for their students. High School Art teacher might come and give art lessons to elementary but there have been scheduling issues as of September. The pay has been improved across fields, and increased benefits. Health Insurance was increased for teachers last year, and teachers had to pay, but this year Sargent is paying some health benefit. Legislation allows schools to raise Mill Levy, but Sargent is already to max. Student count is up, we will know in October if we have raised enrollment 5 years in a row. Sargent will keep offering programs to encourage enrollment. Some ESSER money has not been

used. Some suggestions are math coaching, summer school, safety materials. There is a possible entry management safety issues include might needing a new bus, a para or two for hire, and a grant for air purifier for every room. We could use ESSER money for the air purifiers if we don't get a grant for \$50,000 which includes the purifier unit, cartridges for a whole year and the installation for every room.

Theresa asked how do we represent education across the state board? Colorado is one of the lowest states in education. The Colorado Board of Education has too many split votes and no unified goals. Legislation might possible be changing some decisions.

Follow up on ideas to increase DAC membership: Booth at the Back-to-School night. Suggestion that DAC booth needs to be by cafeteria, so they get more traffic. Having Elementary and Highschool Back to School nights be on different nights was brought up, but there were concerns that parents might not make it to one or the other if they have students in both schools. DAC could have a table at the Book Fair to try to gain interest in parents. Getting more recognition through community services like pick up days at the school Each group of Big Brothers/Big Sisters would take different sections of school. Making sure the DAC meetings are on the Calendar that parents get so they know when the dates are ahead of time.

### **New Business: Review and Prioritize DAC directives for 2021-2022**

The following suggestions and notes were added to the DAC Directive. Suggestions/notes are highlighted.

1. Performance evaluation, develop and modify plan. (Mr. Crowther said to add "correct", "review", and "suggest" instead of "develop" and "modify".)
2. Coordinate District calendar (This is optional, have Board and DAC approve one month earlier?)
3. Continued efforts to make online distance learning a tool that can work for all students, parents and teachers. (All students on line not packets-how do we develop a plan to streamline the process) (Put together a work group with some elementary teachers to see about live streaming or zoom for lessons) Para or teacher to help teacher with lessons or set up online schools. We might need to get Patrick Sewell's help with this, and possibly need subcommittee.
4. Community engagement- school service, parent involvement in buildings, school spirit, school pride, and facilities improvements. Trying to have 4., 6., 11. all into one. Getting grandparents of students and other people in district updated on Sargent happenings. Possibly having a newspaper "Farmer Flash" to update people who don't get Valley courier or who is not online. Having a community clean up day, doing good works and giving back in Sargent and community
5. Identify services that are available and build relationships with private, government or school related groups to offer wrap-around service for all students and families. Opening lines of communication In nurses and counseling provided through Sargent
6. Grant writing-community members?
7. Understanding data better, where are the weak areas, and help us identify problems. Having Kristin Stambough explain data for parents to understand CMAS

with the different graphs, and put it into laymen's terms. Also making sure parents understand college requirements.

8. Friday school- Parent information online learning
9. Landscape project Put on hold because there is no funding for project. There are already plans made. It would be done in phases and overtime, but we would need grant money. Tracy Holmes got the GoGo Grant for playground equipment, that might be a possibility.
10. Including out of district parents input
11. Student group-Leader in Me- attend DAC meetings Include the Elementary, Junior High, and High School STUCO members
12. Budget Review Budget is proposed the end of May and Board approves it by the end of June.

Next meeting will be held November 9, at 6:00 PM at Dos Rios.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:06 PM.