

Minutes of November 9th, 2021

District Accountability Committee Meeting

Sargent School District

The District Accountability Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at Dos Rios Restaurant in Monte Vista, CO. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by chairperson Theresa Kaiser-Griffin.

Present at the meeting: Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Michele Peterson, Brian Crowther, Shelley David, Kristin Stambaugh, Christa Davis, Terri Paulson, Montana Younkerman, Kyler Brown, Parker Ford, Madelyn Beiriger, Michelle Burkhart, Clay Mitchell, and Brody David. A quorum was not present.

Introductions were held.

Minutes of the September meeting were available. When a quorum is present, minutes from the meeting will need to be approved.

Principals/Superintendent Updates

Principal Joni Hemmerling shared the attached updates for the elementary school.

Principal Shelley David shared upcoming activities for the junior high/high school (see attachment).

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

- a. The governor proposed a budget and recommended a cut to the BS factor (increases money to the school).
- b. More grants are available to promote "catch up" through ESSER funds. This money is available due to Covid and may be used through 2023. 60% is dedicated to education. Additionally, air purifiers will be placed in each classroom.
- c. A recent survey seeking input on how to spend ESSER money was distributed district-wide. The results are pending.
- d. The covid vaccine is available for 5- to 11-year-olds.
- e. Unexpected resignations have contributed to adjustments in the budget. Currently maintenance needs an applicant. There is a shortage of substitutes, but the district is managing well and working together.
- f. Recently, work has been completed on the heating system.

Open Issues

Budget Update

Mr. Crowther addressed this through his updates above. A question was asked about how many grant writers are available. Stephanie Klecker is an option, but the writer is also dependent on the grant.

Increasing DAC Membership

A suggestion was made to use teachers as attendees/members of DAC. A second question was raised about how many out of district vs in-district parents are needed for DAC. The bylaws and/or state guidelines need to be reviewed before pursuing further.

Additional suggestions included "targeting" specific grades to share information, i.e. include minutes, "show" involvement from all levels, i.e. elementary principal, junior high/high school principal, superintendent, and changes in how DAC functions. Families new to the district were also suggested as possible committee members. Lastly, a social event could offer opportunities for parents interested in education, i.e. DAC, PTO, ABC.

Directives

Performance Evaluation

Teachers present voiced their opinion that the evaluation is fair and effective. It is a rubric-rating scale from the CDE and is evidence based. Evaluations are completed mid-year and at the end of the year. The principal completes a formal observation along with several informal observations throughout the year. Student learning is measured and is 50% of the evaluation. More importantly, teachers have input in the evaluation.

Leader in Me

Students Parker Ford, Montana Younkerman, and Madelyn Beiriger shared recent survey results from the Measurable Results Assessment (MRA) highlighting strengths and weaknesses in measured areas at the secondary level for the Leader in Me program. Leadership, Culture, and Academics buckets were specifically addressed and student input was given to create a plan for the high and low in each category.

Other

Some in attendance shared concern that there are too many directives for DAC to complete in the present year. Additionally, it was questioned whether the board should be giving the directives vs. the DAC giving suggestions to the board. A copy of the bylaws was unavailable to reference and further discussion will take place at the next meeting. Theresa suggested that with a newly elected school board, it might be a good time to review the existing directives and make adjustments.

Online Learning

Kyler Brown presented the DAC a survey to address online learning. Due to time constraints, initial suggestions were to rephrase and minimize the number of questions. The group was informed that an updated website should be available in January that also features an app.

Landscape Project

Theresa Kaiser-Griffin has the original design plans, but there is talk of an FFA building, which would alter the design. Further input from the school board is necessary.

New Business

Clay Mitchell shared information from the website SchoolDigger.com. This website helps "parents evaluate school performance and quality". Of 703 public elementary schools, Sargent ranks 514th. The junior high school ranks 217th of 366 schools. A small comparison to some area schools was provided. Clay asked the district to consider its academic goals and ways to improve performance.

Election of Officers

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 11th, 2022 at 6:00 pm at Dos Rios restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Kaiser-Griffin