

District Accountability Committee

Tuesday January 11, 2022
Dos Rios Restaurant 6:00pm

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022 the DAC held a meeting at Dos Rios Restaurant in Monte Vista, CO. President of DAC Theresa Kaiser-Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present at the meeting Michele Peterson, Clay Mitchell, Jay Sarason, Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Montana Younkerman, Parker Ford, Joni Hemmering, Michelle Burkhart, Brian Crowther, Kyler Brown, Trish Slater, and Lacie Paulson. A quorum was not present.

Minutes of the November DAC meeting will need to be approved when the next time a quorum is present.

Principals/Superintendent Updates

Mrs. Hemmerling, Elementary Principal said her and Mrs. David, High School Principal will alternate attendance at DAC meetings, so she gave Mrs. David's updates as well. The administrators have a meeting every Monday. On January 31, 2022 at 5:30pm the Sargent Community is invited to have coffee and a slice of pizza with Sargent administrators to discuss open topics in the High School Library. The Elementary enrollment continues to increase; they had 185 in person students and 2 students online. The winter benchmarking is almost complete, only NWEA for math is left. They will have a grade level data team meeting to discuss reading and math academics on every student. There is a new 5th/6th grade teacher, Mrs. Cobb. Each teacher uses their planning time to make sure students are moving in the right direction, using data collected, whether they are on level, below level, or above level. Stephanie Klecker is working on a grant that would pay to hire a para to work with kids that are above level. Kyler Brown asked if the valley schools could hire a para together, and the para could travel to the different schools. Mr. Crowther said tutors are hard to find. Also Adams State intern opportunities are challenging because of COVID restrictions, with the intern student not being able to go school to school to because of possible transmission. There is a Gifted and Talented meeting every month. The GT coordinator for Sargent is out on maternity leave. Mrs. Hemmerling provided upcoming important dates. Feb. 4, PD Day Leader in Me, Feb. 21st and 23rd PT Conferences 4:00pm-7:30pm, March 10 End of 3rd quarter, March 15th Project Showcase 5:30pm-7:00pm, March 21st-March 25th Spring break, May 26th End of 4th quarter, May 27th Teacher Work Day and Graduation. She provided a packet of the Elementary teachers updates in their classrooms.

Mrs. David sent an outline with Mrs. Hemmerling on High School notes. The Secondary NWEA testing, mid year benchmarking were held the 12th and 13th of January. Mrs. Stambaugh created schedules for teachers. FFA Students will attend the National Western Stock Show Jan. 14th-16th. Mrs. David, Mrs. Hemmerling, and Mr. Crowther will attend Coffee with the Administrators. Winterfest is week of January 24-29th with Sadie Hawkins Dance on the 29th. The Winterfest Dress up Days are: Monday- Anything but a backpack day, Tuesday- Mascot Day, Wednesday- Cowboy or Hollywood day, Thursday- PJ day. There will be a crowning of royalty at the basketball game. There is a new COVID update from the new RN Kristin Lane, the new updates

that explain quarantine and isolation requirements were passed around at the meeting. Professional Development Training for staff is on February 4, 2022. Trauma Informed Care with GSN and working on Leader in Me "Sargent Leadership". December students of the month: 7th Will Walker, 8th Crystal Loman, 9th Josiah Yocom, 10th Giovanni Aguilar, 11th Madelyn Beirgier, 12th Montana Younkerman.

Mr. Crowther discussed the Leader In Me program. He said that for the past 3 years the company has not been very helpful or supportive to Sargent. He wants to figure out what components of the program we like in Sargent and what doesn't work for our school. He wants it to be personalized for the Sargent School and make it a Farmer Leadership Program, which would be sustainable and last for a long time. How can Sargent make it a program that is implemented all day long? Head Boy Parker Ford said the program does encourage leadership roles in the students, and said he likes the program. Head Girl Montana Younkerman said she attended the Leader In Me conference her Freshman year and was impressed by how students put the entire conference on successfully. There needs to be a culture of Leader In Me at Sargent. On February 4th the staff and Light House Team will discuss the Leader In Me.

Open Issues

Sargent has received some grants, but not a lot. We do not have at risk students compared to other schools. Sargent is trying to get a RISE grant which the money would help High School student's Sargent School start its own Sargent business that would carry on throughout the years of Sargent Schools. COVID CDC guidelines change but Sargent will continue to do what the authorities tell them to do. This next wave of Omicron is supposed to be low risk for students, and so Sargent wants to keep kids in school if possible. If kids are sick they should stay home, and follow new CDC guidelines. There is a COVID weekly testing option for anyone, but there has not been many participants.

Budget updates: Colorado economy is strong. Hopefully the state of Colorado will correct the funding to schools. Priority of funding in Colorado goes to at-risk schools. Elementary enrollment is up and holding strong, but the high school enrollment has gone down a few students.

Head Boy, Parker Ford and High School senior, Montana Younkerman supplied a packet with the SAT scores of 2018-2021 valley schools to compare their scores with Sargent. Sargent's score grew 88 points which is the most a school grew in the valley, according to the Colorado Department of Education. Sargent performed well in the state, we had a good mean score, and we beat a Denver STEM charter school. The High School math teacher is tutoring every Friday. The math teachers in Sargent are working together to prep students well for the PSAT and SAT.

Directives

Reprioritizing: Stephanie Klecker and BOCES write grants for Sargent. Sargent received \$106,000 for all new chrome books. Trish Slater asked that there be transparency in the minutes at meetings. Ground improvements directive was brought up, the different possibilities of the landscape project, FFA building, or Preschool building. The community would have capabilities for leveling the ground with farm equipment. Someday in the future there will be plans for getting a new Elementary built, and what would happen to the old building or the site

that it is on. Clay Mitchell said Sargent needs to have a vision or a goal for the ground for 20 years in the future that benefits the community and that also includes plans for future upgrades. DAC could start to make plans and the Board has the ability to approve or disprove plans. A possible DAC subcommittee could be appointed to start on the ground improvement.

Subcommittee updates:

Parents might need to help with Friday Schools. There has not been much participation with Friday activities. They need to be regular, instead of on-again, off-again. This is lower priority.

There needs to be some grant writing for the Landscape Project.

We have 80% of Sargent students who are out of district Out-of-district participants are encouraged to come to DAC.

Student Participation in DAC is also encouraged and welcomed, with the STUCO Head Boy/Head Girl, and Leader in Me. It was great to see Parker and Montana attend DAC this meeting.

DAC meetings and membership is explained on Sargent Website and a booth is set up at the beginning of the year at the Back-to-School-Night to encourage attendance. Mr. Crowther said Sargent is working on a new website that is very user friendly and it will also have a Sargent App that will really improve communication.

Review '22-23 Calendar

The calendar was reviewed and all thought it was appropriate for next year. The staff preferred calendar is considered the best choice. This next year the Thursday before Christmas comes right before Christmas, as it did 2021, which leaves little time to prepare for Christmas, but the two weeks of vacation after Christmas day made the staff feel like they got a full 2 week break. This only happens every 2 out of 7 years where the date falls right where this is possible. We take the same Spring break as all the other valley schools and Adams State. The subcommittee is very attentive to the San Luis Valley Fair week. The Calendar Subcommittee voted pro calendar with 78%, usually the subcommittee has 3 Elementary teachers and 3 High school teachers. Maybe a DAC member can attend to make suggestions.

New Business

The Election of Officers not possible without a quorum. Clay Mitchell and Trish Slayter wanted to become members of the DAC.

Theresa Kaiser-Griffin adjourned the meeting at 8:14pm.

The next DAC meeting will be March 8th, 2022

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lacie Paulson