

District Accountability Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Dos Rios Restaurant 6:00pm

Call to Order

On Tuesday, March 8, 2022 the DAC held a meeting at Dos Rios Restaurant in Monte Vista, CO. President of DA Theresa Kaiser-Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. All present introduced themselves.

Present at the meeting: Christa K. Daves, Hector Ramos Garcia, Jay Sarason, David Larson, Brian Crowther, Todd Pinkston, Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Jo Rice, Jamie Behil, Joni Hemmerling, Terry VanBibber, Nicole Rockey, Kacie Cobb, Sarah Schaller, Kyler J. Brown, Lacie Paulson, Michelle Burkhardt, Amanda Andrews, Michele Peterson, Lexi Wingert, Sherrey David, Kristen Stanbaugh, Janae Naranjo, Trish Slater, Michelle Roepki, Rafe Paulson, Rocio Urbina, Page Sewell, and Stacey Plane; constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of previous meetings

Kyler Brown moved to approve the minutes of the previous meetings and Michelle Burkhardt seconded the motion.

Principals Updates

Principal Joni Hemmerling gave the elementary school update. Her notes are attached to the minutes which include the placings of the Elementary Science Fair awards. Joni Hemmerling said they have a new SMORE website that is up. She also mentioned Sam Smartt is volunteering to help the Elementary students with their art project called Project Showcase. The Elementary Swim program will be April 11-13.

High School Principal Shelley David gave the High School update. Some of Middle school and High school students participated in the Valley Science Fair. Mrs. David gave the list of award winners. Sargent won the Science Fair Best Middle School Award. The FBLA competition was held February 8th and Sargent had lots of award winners. There are also State History Fair qualifiers from Sargent. In the Salsa competition Don Sheradon won. The High School decorated a crane for Monte Vista's main street.

Superintendent Update

Superintendent Brian Crowther gave the superintendent update. The Sargent heating system has been having problems. Every school in the valley has had issues because all the new buildings are contracted with a company out of Fort Collins, because of COVID issues and the

distance to the Valley the service is not very good. The contract is ending, and Sargent is looking for a different company to take over. There is a Teacher Advisory Committee that has meetings to look for ways to help the school climate for the staff and for the students.

Open Issues

The Board approved the school calendar to have two early release days on two Wednesdays at 1:00pm for PLC to help teachers have time with planning.

Sargent has had the same Health Care insurance, BEST health, for almost 20 years. Sargent is looking to change their insurance for a better coverage program with lower premiums.

Writing grants are a big job with lots of paperwork. Sargent has a RISE grant which has career opportunities for the high schoolers; some possibilities are to sell T-Shirts, or for school to buy a flour mill and sell fresh milled flour with wheat that they grow.

Sargent's new website went live at 4:00pm the afternoon of the DAC meeting. The website will be very user friendly, and the app is coming in the next few weeks, which will further improve communications.

Michelle Roepke asked if other Valley schools offered Career Ready programs like Sargent, and some schools do, but Sargent is the only school with the Aviation program.

Budget Update

The state projections and governor proposal look good for Colorado schools. Colorado is paying down the B.S. Factor. A large percentage of budget is needed to run the school. The largest percent of the budget is for salaries, which is 80 percent at the beginning pay scale.

Hiring subs is a constant battle. The teachers will talk about how to gain more subs for Sargent using creative ideas to attract them from other districts which may include gift cards for gas money. The principal position has three applicants including Mrs. Hemmerling who is reapplying.

2021-22 Directives

Where to spend money in the Elementary was discussed. Either on an Elementary Art/Technology Teacher or another Class room teacher to prevent large class sizes. The different benefits were offered on both choices. Smaller class sizes are very beneficial for lower grades. When there is a lot of students in the "specials" (Art/Technology), it is hard to get things done. Some students really need the "specials" because that is where they excel, so the special classes are important. Would Trinidad State or Adams have students who would be willing to come and teach for credit?

On the Project Showcase that Sam Smartt is helping with, a lot of the teachers are spending their own money on supplies for the students.

Salary for teachers could be raised or Sargent could hire new staff. High School and Elementary both need a teacher for specials. The school budget went down but COVID funding offset this. State finance amended budget in January because economy was better than expected. Inflation was discussed and the concern for teacher's low pay not being enough to balance the rising prices. Kyler Brown said hiring an art/technology teacher could give students the full breadth of learning that should be offered to kids, and that students would have more time and less stress if we could offer them that opportunity.

Teachers have 10-12 hours of extra planning time per week to prepare for class. They have a lot of stress right now; is there any incentives we could offer for the teachers to stay for meetings. There are not many teachers coming out of Adams State right now, which looks like a teacher shortage.

Sargent is trying to put Workers Comp., Health Insurance, and Retirement into the budget. The budget will be discussed by the School board in May. Krista Davis mentioned with all the prices going up because of inflation, maybe instead of raises being given to teachers Sargent should look at giving bonuses to the teachers so the budget is not overspent with the rising costs.

Landscape Project

Goal is to keep looking ahead for a 15–20-year projection. Board said Shop/Ag/ Hanger building is priority. In eight years, the High School will be paid for and next in line will be a new Elementary building, which also includes getting additional land for the new building. Jay Sarason, the Aviation Teacher said he wants to print out a large aerial photo of the Sargent property to show stake holders to ask for feedback in where to put the building, parking and ask for funding so we would not have to rely on budget only.

The Ag teacher Sarah Schaller, who is a Sargent graduate of 2016, said she's gotten lots of support for the FFA club. There has been an FFA Alumni support group that has formed with Brighton Burkhart as the president. Eighty-Five percent of the Sargent High Schoolers are in a Work-Ready program. Sarah Schaller passed around the new Sargent Ag Newsletter which the kids produce on the first Wednesday of the month.

Theresa Kaiser-Griffin's sister designed a plan for the landscape project that should be added to the proposal. Kyler Brown said Sargent community should help with the work during the summer with equipment they own. Students who also need community service could help too. Matt Smartt has dirt for the groundwork. Paige Sewell said she knows of a school who did community clean up before school starts and after school starts; she thought we should implement this at Sargent so we can take care of what we have. Elementary and High School could have different clean up days.

Election of Officers

Michelle Burkhart moved to reinstate the President of DAC Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Vice President Kyler Brown, and Secretary Lacie Paulson. Terry VanBibber seconded the motion.

Adjournment

At 7:33pm Theresa Kaiser-Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting and Nicole Rockey seconded the motion.

The next DAC meeting will be at 6:00pm April 19, 2022 at Dos Rios Restaurant.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lacie Paulson