

DAC Meeting Minutes

PSD Boardroom

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

Present

Nikki Arensmeier	Clare Barquero	Erica Daniell	Tena Green
Marcy Lewis	Angela Lindquist	Kathy Mackay	Luis Montalvo
Jodi Quass	Marybeth Rigali-Oiler	Ian Rutherford	Susan Sasson
Mark Strasberg	Michael Werner	Becky Woodcox	

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Dwayne welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 18, 2023, were approved and seconded as amended.

Preview the Meeting Design – Dwayne Schmitz

Dwayne previewed the meeting design.

Leadership Fort Collins Tour of PHS – Michael Werner

Leadership Fort Collins, a program under the City of Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, comprises 30 members committed to a one-year duration. Their responsibility is to convene monthly and delve into the intricacies of the community. Recently, the group visited Poudre High School, specifically touring the integration of the Futures Lab with the standard curriculum. The tour aimed to showcase the seamless incorporation of the Futures Lab into regular programming at Poudre High School. The group expressed strong admiration for the diverse course offerings provided by both programs, catering to the needs of all students.

The group received a presentation from Becca Benedict, the Director of Early Childhood, regarding the Universal Pre-K (UPK) program. The program encompasses more than 600 children who collectively speak 30 languages. This initiative aligns with the Graduating with Options Priority Performance Challenge within PSD. Michael emphasized that the DAC's efforts are impactful in the district, making a meaningful difference for our students.

Committee discussion included:

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Review School Budget Survey Results – Dwayne Schmitz and Dave Montoya

Dwayne distributed copies of the questions and responses from the SAC Budget Priorities Survey, Spring 2023. The committee then divided into four groups and employed the constant comparative method to discern themes in the survey responses across different sections. These sections encompassed Professional Development Needs, Staffing Needs, Facility Needs, and Other.

Professional Development Needs – What are your budget priorities in this area?

1. Curriculum and Instruction Strategies
2. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
3. Teacher Collaboration and Well-being
4. Special Programs and Language Development
 - a. Focused on English Language Learners
5. Safety and Security
6. Time
 - a. Teachers often find themselves with insufficient time to complete their assigned tasks.
 - b. Increasing the number of paraprofessionals would provide grade-level teachers with additional time for collaborative efforts.
 - c. Sufficient time is essential for the successful integration of the new literacy curriculum.

Committee discussion included:

- Principals express concern about teachers working beyond their regular hours.
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- a. Having in-house substitutes familiar with the school and its students is advantageous. This approach could contribute to lower burnout rates and help retain current staff.
- b. While the majority of substitute costs are covered by the central budget, some expenses are site-based, especially when substitutes are utilized for teachers undergoing professional development. ~~See~~ ~~Table~~ ~~J~~ ~~J~~ ~~0~~ ~~Tc~~ ~~0~~ ~~Tw~~ ~~0~~ ~~TTj~~ ~~0.001~~ ~~Tc~~ ~~-0-0.001~~ ~~Twas~~ ~~0~~ (bs)6 -0

- Staffing and Teacher Support
- Special Requests for Special Services

Committee Discussion Included:

- Explore and compile a directory of free opportunities, including collaborations with community partners like transportation services and the Discovery Science Museum.
- Consider partnerships with the community, such as chartering unused city buses and utilizing city resources and CSU for enriching experiences.
- Introduce children to public transportation early on to enhance their safety awareness and comfort levels as they grow.
- Amid budget constraints, explore creative ways to partner with individuals and organizations possessing resources.
- Emphasize the need for innovative thinking, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.
- Prioritize collaboration and identify areas of need through ongoing discussions.
- Implement actionable items based on the insights provided by the committee during upcoming community events.
- Initiate conversations promptly, considering the time required for the planning and execution of potential solutions.
- Avoid assumptions about widespread awareness of the financial situation; disseminate knowledge to empower the community.
- Acknowledge the current budget constraints regarding playgrounds and consider alternative solutions.