

Minutes of 3-14-2016 SAC meeting

Director's Report – Raj Solanki

Regarding the goal to develop a well-governed organization, Peter Hiltz has been working with the staff to review the school performance framework. Analysis of how to target interventions for better performance on PARCC/CMAS is underway.

Staff is forming a finance working group to include staff in financial oversight discussions and identifying shared values. Teacher pay and class size are part of those discussions. Staff retention goal is 90%. Currently, 94% of staff is returning next year.

Student proficiency goals on PARCC/CMAS are:

60% of students to be at average or above in English/Language Arts and 47% in Math.

Current assessments on NWEA and MAP are: 55.5% ELA and 39% in Math.

In the determination to build a financially viable organization, the cash reserve ratio goal is 25%. This is the typical reserve ratio for nonprofits. Newer schools often have a lower reserve than established schools. Current net assets are at 16%.

Average daily attendance is at 92.51%. The goal is 95%.

Climate Survey

Discussion involved the best way to connect with parents. The overall results of the climate survey were quite positive. The SAC will meet in April to discuss a final climate survey for the school year to be issued in May. Staff feedback and the newly developing finance working group, along with family and staff satisfaction surveys will help convey a well-rounded climate picture.

UIP

At the time of the SAC meeting, there had been no feedback from CSI on the Unified Improvement Plan. Since then, CSI has issued a feedback review. This will be discussed and reviewed before and at the next SAC meeting.

SAC – current status and developing roles

The School Accountability Committee will continue to assist the Board of Education in defining and refining what academic excellence means for Mountain Song Community School. It will continue to hold public SAC meetings to discuss strategies to include in the Unified Improvement Plan and to solicit input to set annual academic achievement goals. These will be presented to and approved by the Board.

Pending approval by the Board, the following directives will be put into place:

By focusing on Academic Excellence, the SAC will analyze academic data collected by the staff as requested by the Board. It will process and report that data to the Board along with recommendations

for improvement. SAC will send out climate surveys approved by the Board at least annually to parents and caregivers to assess school climate and perceptions regarding the academic program, then report the data and make recommendations based on that data.

The SAC will work with school leadership to devise clear and consistent ways to measure progress toward stated goals and to determine impediments to implementing those goals. It will work with school leadership to share the successes and barriers to reaching academic excellence and the strategies to overcome those barriers.

SAC will ensure that board members understand the key charter promises made to the community and to the authorizer. Grian McFadden has agreed to be on the Charter Renewal Committee. Charter-level promises may be found on the website under Governance > Charter Review > "Progress Against Charter Goals."

Increasing the level of parent engagement in the school will also be a major concern by assisting school personnel in implementing a parent engagement policy.

In addition, the SAC will evaluate its work as a committee and the objectives it has committed itself to, then report that information to the Board of Directors.

The SAC will increase its meeting times to once per month. Currently, those meetings are on the second Monday of the month from 6-7:30 p.m.

At the April 11 meeting, the SAC will revise and review current and past climate surveys to develop a final survey for the end of this academic year.

Tentative SAC liaison to the Finance Working Group (staff committee) is Mona Cousino.

During the Townhall meeting in February, the SAC accepted sign-ups for volunteers to be involved on the committee. Membership is still open, and SAC is currently seeking an interested Parent Council member. Since Melanie Chadwick's term on the Board will end in three months, the SAC is seeking another board member to fill her position.

In attendance: Raj Solanki, ElizaBeth Wildemann, Melanie Chadwick, Shannon Root, Angelita Surage, Debie Bennett, Athena Rehorst, Grian McFadden, and Mona Cousino.