

SCC Meeting Minutes - April 26, 2018

Meeting Started 3:05pm

Excused: Kelli Davey

1. Approval of March 15, 2018 Minutes

Motion, Samantha Robinson, 2nd, Krista Pippin - Unanimous Approval

2. Monthly Update from DPMS Counselors

District interim Three-Year Review - 100% pass rate

Student Center Data Project - Goal was to decrease by 10% the number of 6-8th grade students who failed 3 or more classes first quarter by the end of the third quarter.

Systemic Approach to Dropout Prevention with Social Emotional Supports

19 students at beginning of year, by Quarter 3, number down to 11. (42% decrease)

3. SAGE testing schedule for DPMS - Melinda Colton posting in Newsletter and via social media. She expressed thanks to the PTSA for doing reminders for students to take the SAGE seriously and do their best.

Week of April 23: Writing

Week of May 7: Science

Week of May 14: Reading

Week of May 21: Math

4. Appreciation Luncheon: SCC members are invited to attend the PTSA Appreciation Luncheon May 25, NOON, Media Center

Any parent who has volunteered during the year is invited.

5. Formation of Committee to Research Class Schedule Options: Chad Smith

Notes are available

Don't want to waste time - also don't want inaction by fiat (considering district deadlines)

This has been a hot topic, polarizing opinions. Asked for a tone of respect and appreciation

He has gained a lot of respect for each SCC member and all the good that is happening

Recognizes that many hours were put into research and decisions that have happened in the past

Recognized several positive changes and accommodations that have occurred

Issue still concerning for many. This issue caused the most parental involvement CSD has ever seen, mostly by DPMS.

Elective teachers quit, programs suffer and this will continue

Process is really important, even more important than resolution

School Board Meeting in January 2017 - we were put in a tough situation - hindsight is 20/20

Parents not involved earlier, before decision was made

School Board lacked the follow through with the promises they gave at School Board Meeting (task force + community survey)

Proposal: It's up to us to make it right - the process, not the result

Demonstrate that we're willing to investigate and deliver

We need a task force, survey with parental input

Proposal: Well-rounded committee to Investigate Options, Involving Parents, Presenting 3 or 4 scenarios, with Pros and Cons with each schedule (one will be the current schedule)

Committee Suggestions: Core Teachers, DLI Teachers, Elective Teachers with feeder programs like music, Parents

Questions & Concerns:

Allison: Survey would be the process, but about the results - could either be early, or later with decisions. Supports revisiting the process - it was handled poorly

Alisa Frost: Wasn't there already a task force at the district level?

Pippin: Involved in the original process - all core at each grade level & elective teachers (at least one from each department) plus administration & counselors

The committee agreed on 4 guiding principles to direct our focus around, and to make sure we evaluated each schedule on the same principles. The schedules were ranked based on how they met our guiding principles. We had also been given stipulations or district non-negotiable items: No more money, no more time could be added to the school day, etc. Each week new schedules were presented, anyone on the committee could bring forth a schedule for review. Each committee member was asked to explain how the schedule would affect students and learning in their classroom. We made pros/cons list of schedules and discovered that what was positive for some schools were negatives for other schools depending on each school's unique demographics and needs. We were encouraged to return to our schools and share with colleagues to get their feedback and thoughts. We would present any new information from sharing at the next meeting. Then the process would be repeated for the newly presented schedules. SCC was also updated as they were the parent stakeholder. We looked at a great deal of data the district was able to compile and used national middle school research to guide our focus

At the end of the process the committee selected the top schedules that met our guiding principles and the district send out multiple surveys. Our recommendation to the school board was that Each school is unique, no one schedule was going to fit every school, so as a committee we went to board to ask that schools choose to stay on 6 period or switch based on what is best for school and guiding principals

Question: After being on the district scheduling task force and having the experience of how much information is needed by different people to evaluate different schedules, I have two questions: Can we create a committee at the school level that would be that comprehensive and with the amount of expertise needed? Is it Necessary since we still have all the district data and nothing has happened to make the data invalid?

Anderson: Mike Sirois marching orders - tell SCC, tell PTSA, should have done a Parent Mtg.

Holly: No parents involved on that committee, the community was not involved.

District responded and agreed that the parent community needed to be brought in.

Melinda: Faculty meeting - many different recommendations - SCC never made the decision, it simply supported the decision made by the staff and administration.

She has not received any complaints about the six-period schedule this school year. Has

She worries if this continues to be a point of discussion for SCC, fewer people will want to serve on the SCC because of this polarizing issue.

Holly: It's not necessarily healed, but parents heard that it was tabled and backed off.

Pippin: The four guiding principles were from district research to address the results from a district Community Survey, which results showed the community was not satisfied with the current Middle School models. committee were going off was from 2013 or 2014

6 period schedule met all 4 of the Requirements for DPMS based on school needs, the committee presented findings in several faculty meetings, we had discussion and 96% of faculty voted in favor.

Holly: Let's do the survey, and if the parents agree that they like it, the issue is over

Anderson: We don't want to create a rift.

Holly: Mary is trying to keep them happy, but the elective teachers have to get 10 periods in order to be full time

Jodi: What happened with Spanish this year? 1.5 periods

Mary stated that Kevin Rothert was able to build his class numbers and we were able to hire another part time Spanish teacher for 2 classes. From my experience, as programs build, students continue to fill classes and the program continues to grow.

White: My boys are excited to play their instrument every day next year. It's ok.

Chad: I've had many constituents speak to me about the issue - they want him to do something

Samantha: Faculty meetings, heard all sides, majority of teachers supported the current plan (97% of staff/admin. supported the six-period schedule)

Heather: The District should not have put this on our shoulders as SCC. I don't want to have arguments, I don't want this to be my decision.

Holly: My kids are not in theater or music programs but I feel a responsibility to represent those parents who are invested in these programs. I worry about the long-term sustainability for teachers in these programs and the programs themselves when the teachers have to fight for enrollment in order to be paid for a full time salary.

Samantha: I have to fight for my program too. I have to fight to get kids who want to read.

Melinda: 200 students don't even take a 1st or 6th period; DPMS can't even fill the electives it now offers because parents opt-out their students, first and last period. We can offer electives but can't force students to take them. I haven't had one phone call about class schedules this year. No one is worried about this anymore.

Holly: But there were sent asking you to put it on the agenda - when you decided not to, those parents felt defeated.

Chad: Transparency with parents, hold up Canyons District promise to involve parents

We don't want to pry open a healing wound and make it worse

Not a waste of time to package information and present it to students

Stenten: Can we gain the trust of the parents by sharing the information we already have?

Chad: The data would be helpful - sending a link to it

Melinda: Why would we start down a road that next year's SCC will have to implement. It is not fair to them.

Holly: But the timeline as outlined in our district policy doesn't give us enough time if we wait until the fall - the new SCC only has 2 meetings before the decision must be made

Melinda: Can we hear from other people in the room?

Pippin: I feel badly that trust was lost.

Visitor (Wendy Smith): SCC Actions often need to be carried over to subsequent years. Parents at other schools were informed of the changes in newsletters, emails. I feel fear towards knowing, fear towards change. We need action now so that we can make progress toward change. Ask parents if they would like the SCC to form a committee

Mary: they were informed in newsletters because their school was going to change their bell schedules, we didn't change ours

Visitor (Amanda Oaks): Policies are made, unforeseen circumstances. The SCC shouldn't have been given this role. It was punted to you. Unfair responsibility. Parents were promised a survey, wanted transparency - parents are discouraged that no one will do anything anyway. If we are afraid of what parents might say, that's not a reason to not do a survey. Kathleen Riebe conversation - Sometimes the pendulum needs to swing the opposite direction. Continuity.

Mary: I'm accused of not listening, but just because I have a different opinion, does that mean that I'm not listening.

Heather: The process to help those who want more electives. Mary is listening.

Chad struggled to modify his prepared motion. Melinda said not to worry because she intended to make a substitute motion, regardless.

Holly Motion: Conduct a survey to ask parents if they're interested in looking at Class Schedules -
Vanessa 2nd as per policy - Through Survey Monkey from the SCC

Failed -- 3 (Chad, Holly, Vanessa) for - 11 against (Remainder of SCC)

Melinda Substitute Motion: We wait until next year and let the next year's SCC decide whether to do a
survey - Pippin 2nd -- Approved 11 for - 3 against (Chad, Holly, Vanessa)

Melinda - We are not always going to agree on things - I respect differing opinions

Anderson: Thanked Chad for the way that he scripted the discussion to be positive

6. Proposal to move 2018-2019 SCC meetings to Wednesdays: Mary Anderson

Melinda: Wait until next year to ask the new SCC

7. End-of-Year Calendar

May 1: Viking Scholar Awards Banquet, 6pm, Media Center

May 7-11: Teacher Appreciation Week - all teachers will be getting Swag bags

May 11: Open House for retiring custodian Les Brown, 3pm, Media Center

May 25: PTSA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Noon, Media Center

June 6: 8th grade "Adios" party

Meeting Adjourned: 4:33pm

Final Meeting: May 17 @ 3pm