



School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

4:30 pm January 26, 2016

Present: Cecilia Stewart, Jeromy Johnson, David Rootes, Katharine Barnes, Karen Aschenbrenner, Ben Williams, Dawn Lima

4:15 David Rootes, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order

4:20 December minutes were approved. Cecelia moved and David seconded the motion. The committee agreed unanimously.

4:30 Reviewed Parent and Student Survey – topics/areas for further discussion

- a) Level of Challenge – answer ‘inconsistent’ and additional clarification would be helpful
- b) Academic Progress
- c) Amount/frequency/type of class information distributed to parents
- d) Middle School – communication, respect
- e) Technology – type/use in DCS

5:00 Discussed Board report

- a) Main role/goals of DCS Board of Directors
- c) Interactions between board and parent body of DCS

5:20 Date of next meeting was schedule, Feb 23rd.

5:30 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dawn Lima

Community Designee



School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

Present: Jeremy Johnson, David Rootes, Katharine Barnes, Karen Aschenbrenner, Ben Williams, Dawn Lima

4:15 David Rootes, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order

4:20 January minutes were approved. Ben moved Dawn Lima seconded the motion. The committee agreed unanimously.

4:25 Jeremy advised the SAC about an issue with the Parent Survey that was identified by the DCS BOD. The BOD had noticed some survey answers were very similar to answers received in 2015 and requested the office do a check. Brycie cross-checked IP addresses and it was discovered that 11 responses were received from a single IP address. The BOD suspects that the 11 responses came from a particular family that had issues with the BOD during the 2014-2015 school year and were very negative during the previous year's survey. The BOD would like a Secure Pathway provided so each family is only able to provide a single survey response. Jeremy will work on this with the office staff for future surveys.

Overall, we received 40% response to the Surveys this year as compared to 60% in the 2014-2015 school year.

SAC discussed re-instating a comments box along with 'Other' responses for:

- 1) Disagreement with homework appropriateness
- 2) Technology

The following survey questions, identified during the January meeting, were reviewed:

- a) 'My student is appropriately challenged' – answer 'inconsistent' and additional clarification would be helpful
 - i) 11/31 'Inconsistent' response – originated from M.S. parents and could be tainted
 - ii) 14/31 – 'Inconsistent' response – originated from L.E. (7/31 – homework is 'Too Easy', 7/31 – homework is 'Inconsistent')
- b) Communication from Teachers regarding Academic Progress - >85% of responses were positive or neutral. The SAC felt this was a good result and did not warrant further investigation

- c) Amount/frequency/type of class information distributed to parents – Disagree/Strongly Disagree responses – mainly originated from M.S. responses and SAC determined this was likely due to the tainted 11 responses
- d) Middle School – communication, respect. Given the discovery of skewed data, the SAC did not spend time reviewing.
- e) Technology – type/use in DCS.
 - i) Primary – 3 responses, not enough technology/conflicted. Technology in Primary within the Montessori philosophy is not a priority
 - ii) L.E. – 3 responses, not enough focus on technology
 - iii) U.E. – 4 responses - not enough focus on technology, 6 responses – not up to modern standards, not enough access (not enough stations in each classroom)
 - iv) M.S. – 6 responses – not enough focus, not enough access to the DCS Chromebooks, unreliable system

5:20 Discussed Alumni Survey and upcoming launch of Alumni Website

- a) Alumni website will be launched 3/16. Karen A. has been instrumental in developing this website and the alumni Facebook page. So far the FB page has 280 students. The FB admin must approve new members, requirements are students only and at least 9th grade.
- b) Alumni website information questions are very similar to the Alumni survey from the SAC. Plan is to work together (SAC survey and Alumni Website) so that the Alumni students provide information at a single interface and both groups have access to the data.
- c) Alumni event is being planned by the Alumni committee for the end of May 16'. The 1st event planned is a Field Day, an informal setting and one that is very popular with the students.
- d) Ben volunteered to set up an online account where the SAC can share/edit documents and finalize a draft the Alumni and Student survey ahead of our next meeting in April. Both surveys will be launched in April 2016, so the SAC will need to finalize and approve both surveys at the next meeting.

5:40 Date of next meeting was scheduled for April 5th.

5:45 Motion to adjourn meeting by Ben, Katharine seconded. Committee agreed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dawn Lima
Community Designee



School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

4:15pm April 5th, 2016

Present: Ben Williams, David Rootes, Cecilia Stewart, Dawn Lima, Katherine Barnes, and Karen Aschenbrenner

4:15 Minutes review and approval from prior meeting - Dawn motion to approve, Katherine seconded, approved unanimously.

4:30 Student Survey and Plan was discussed

- several questions were minorly modified with language
- extension questions were also asked regarding student safety
- Ben motion to approve the Student Survey, Cecilia seconded, approved unanimously.

5:05 Alumni Survey and Plan was discussed

- plan for integration with Alumni group discussed
- modifications to some questions of Alumni survey addressed
- plan to continue Alumni survey to former parents discussed and agreed upon
- Ben motion to approve Alumni survey plan, Cecilia seconded, approved unanimously

5:40 Finances, full budget review, and Adjournment

- the 2016-17 budget was discussed as well as summer facility improvements.

5:50 Cecilia motion to adjourn the meeting David seconded, approved unanimously.



School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

4:15pm September 6th, 2016

4:00 Introductions David, Cecilia, Ben, Dawn, Denise, and Jeromy present, Dee absent

4:10 Purpose of SAC was discussed, its history, uniqueness in charter schools - acceptance of bylaws also discussed

4:30 Roles and Responsibilities - Cecilia nominated to continue as Chair, Dawn as Vice-Chair, Dee as Secretary, and Ben as DAC Liaison - David motioned for approval, Denise seconded the motion, and Roles were unanimously approved.

5:00 UIP Discussion

-Data types for influencing Goals discussed, including the new School Performance Framework (SPF) - statewide PARCC trend low in Writing - current emphasis in the school.

5:20 HOS report, discuss Finances and Safety

-Budget in good shape - final Middle School construction planned as well as playground upgrades - long range high school considerations were discussed - including current options for students.

5:30 Adjournment

- Scheduled times are highly flexible and meeting will take place in the DCSM Conference Room.



School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

4:15pm October 4th, 2016

4:00 Introductions David, Cecilia, Ben, Dee, Denise, and Jeromy present, Dawn absent

4:10 Minutes Review and Approval - minutes for Sept. were moved to be approved by David, seconded by Denise, approved unanimously.

4:30 Survey Questions Review and Discussion (Board of Directors Input)

-Parent Survey reviewed some detail on questions discussed and potential follow-up questions embraced

5:00 Goals Discussion

-Writing and Reading discussed in addition to Montessori to Home connection communications in progressed, Student survey, Alumni data, and Parent data examined within the discussion of Goals.

5:20 HOS report, discuss Finances and Safety

-Transitional drills planned for this school year to work on safety - budget solid as Board is expected to complete Greenhouse, but state funding looks at cuts for 2017-18, so planning will keep things stable.

5:30 Adjournment

- Scheduled times are highly flexible and meeting will take place in the DCSM Conference Room.

SAC Meeting
December 7, 2016

In attendance: Dawn Lima, Ben Rootes, Dan Williams, Denise Glenn, Sheila Wolfe (for Jeromy Johnson)

Called meeting to order at 4:45pm

Parent Survey

Reviewed question 7: Q10- clarification for those who indicated inconsistency in parent survey. Explored responses to find indication of homework inconsistent in volume, from class to class, subject area, not aligned to the classroom work. Found no single overwhelming response.

Add notation on question 7 indicating application to elementary and up only.
Add an option for homework being too difficult?

May be helpful to add options that would clarify "other" to gather more specific data. Possible additions: homework does not support curriculum, assignments lack specific directions, homework is "busywork"

Reviewed question 13: Help us understand disagreement with our technology adequacy.

Add request for indication of grade level.

Add notation on question 13 indicating application to elementary and up only.

Add options for those who indicate "not enough": chromebooks, specific skills and application, teacher tools and technology, research, student to tablet ratio, technology access time and accessibility, hardware and applications issue

Discussion- How can parents better understand the need for balance between tech and Montessori curriculum. Utilize monthly parent education outreach to increase understanding of philosophy in regard to technology.

Add Survey Question: Are you aware of opportunities for parent education at DCSM?

What parent education options have you attended?

How often do you volunteer at the school?

Suggested that Back to School Night be used to "plug" Montessori University

Ben motioned to accept Parent survey with parents as noted in minutes.

Dawn and Dan second All in favor: unanimous

Sheila talked about the Montessori Conference in April. Parent participation supports school goal of supporting Montessori in the home.

Meeting adjourned: 6:45pm