

Minutes of September 10th, 2019  
**District Accountability Committee Meeting**

Sargent School District

On Tuesday September 10th, 2019, the DAC held a meeting at Tequila Star Restaurant in Monte Vista, Colorado. President, Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM. Present at the meeting, constituting a quorum, were the following: Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Christa Davis, Lacie Paulson, Michelle Roepke, Nicole Rockey, Elliott Corum, Kari Christoferson, Maurice Hirsch and David Larson. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Brian Crowther, Principals Joni Hemmerling and Shelley David, and School Board Member Michele Peterson.

Nicole Rockey made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Christa Davis seconded and the minutes were approved.

At this meeting the following discussions were held regarding the agenda items:

**Principals / Superintendent Updates:**

Joni Hemmerling updated our group on Elementary activities. The first PTO meeting was held and they had many new parents attend. 3rd - 6th swimming starts October 1st, and September 23rd is the Elementary fitness test. This is a new test P.E. teacher Jamie Glenn has initiated this year. The Veterans Day concert is November 11th at 6:00 PM. The Christmas concert is December 16th at 6:00 PM. K - 2nd will have their swim program in April, and the CMAS testing window is April 6 - 24. Marcus Ortiz is the Elementary counselor. Enrollment in the Elementary has increased from last year.

Principal Shelly David shared that the High School school year is off to a great start. They are currently working on interim assessments and gathering data. The head boy and girl have implemented the Big Brother / Big Sister Program and they've heard great feedback from students, parents and staff. Shelly has a relationship focus in the High School and she's working on getting a newsletter out. High School English teacher, Maurice Hirsch, shared that the students are running the coffee cart.

Superintendent Brian Crowther appreciates being at Sargent and has been impressed with the students. He talked about the Leader In Me Program, how students and teachers are receiving training and this has been a valuable experience. Enrollment district wide is up slightly from last year. He is focusing on everyone taking responsibility, treating each other fairly and continuing Sargent's good reputation.

The main budgetary priority is the teacher salary and pay scale. They would like to look at improving this as Sargent is near the bottom of the pay scale in the San Luis Valley.

He talked about sharing small tokens of appreciation with staff to bolster staff appreciation. They were able to budget for a retention bonus for teachers this year. At the last Superintendent Advisory Counsel they discussed the 2020 Census. The Census is very important to our school and our community. In 2016, Colorado received \$13 billion from the Federal Government based on Census numbers.

### **Open Issues:**

**a) 2019-20 Budget update and priorities** - The Superintendent and his office are working on the 2019-20 Budget. Our state legislators passed the full-day Kindergarten funding and this allowed our district to offset the increases in our insurance costs. Small schools funding was also passed by state legislators. Our funding is based on the higher of a 5-year enrollment average or current enrollment. We will be losing a large enrollment year from our 5-year average and will face a 20% funding reduction next year. We are hoping to pursue grants to help offset some of this reduction. We should promote Referendum CC as this would benefit our schools.

**b) Survey Results - Friday School and 4-day week** - we reviewed and discussed the results of the survey that was administered at the end of the 2018-19 school year. 132 people participated in the survey. For the 1st question asking who the survey taker was, 1 student responded, 13 teachers, 13 community members and 126 parents (95.45%). 63% of respondents had children in the Elementary, 34.65% in the Junior High and 52% had children in the High School. The 3rd question was: Do you support the 4-day school week schedule? 88.37% of respondents said yes and 11.63% said no. Question 4 - How do you feel the 4-day week has impacted extra-curricular activities? 56% of the responses were positive, 37% were neutral, 7% were negative. Question 5 - How do you feel the 4-day week schedule has impacted learning? 53% were positive, 37% neutral and 10% negative. Question 6 - What do you feel is a positive contributor to your child's learning success: Effective teacher(s) was rated the highest, followed by parental involvement, STEM/STEAM / AP classes / concurrent college classes, length of school day/week, next was clubs and sports was ranked the least important. We also discussed the comments left by respondents and there were several comments that talked about having life skill workshops on Fridays.

### **New Business:**

**a) Election of Officers** - Theresa Kaiser-Griffin was nominated for president by Nicole Rockey, Christa Davis 2nd and the motion carried. Christa Davis nominated Nicole Rockey for Vice President, Michelle Roepke 2nd and motion carried. Michelle Roepke was nominated for Secretary by Nicole Rockey, Christa Davis 2nd, motion carried.

President - Theresa Kaiser-Griffin

Vice President - Nicole Rockey

Secretary - Michelle Roepke

**b) 2019-20 Board Directives -**

1. Create a personnel performance evaluation committee to provide feedback on teacher evaluation with respect to how assessments are used in the evaluation of teachers.
2. Explore options for Friday school through working with teachers and administrators. Create an application for teachers interested in providing Friday school options.
3. Discuss ideas for a possible mill level for the 2020 election.
4. Continue to review and look at the calendar and budget.

We created a sub-committee of Theresa Kaiser-Griffin, Nicole Rockey, Kari Christoferson and Michelle Roepke to create an application for teachers interested in providing Friday school options. We also discussed working on directive 1 at our November meeting.

- c) Meeting dates and frequency** - we agreed to keep our meetings to every other month, on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12th at 6:00 PM at Dos Rios Restaurant.

Adjournment: Christa Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting and Nicole Rockey 2nd. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

