

School Accountability Committee – SAC
Chipeta Elementary School via WebEx
November 3, 2020

- A. Call to Order
- B. Welcome and Introductions
- C. Minutes from October 6, 2020 approved

D. Administration

COVID-19 Stressors

Chipeta's school psychologist, Mr. Roland Zell, joined SAC tonight to discuss COVID-19 stressors and the presentation he is going to offer to Chipeta families on the topic. The presentation will focus on anxiety related to COVID-19 including behaviors and other manifestations. It will include strategies and a lot of Q and A and real-world scenarios.

Mr. Zell is seeing varying degrees of COVID related stress (and stress from other stressors such as the election, protests, and general uncertainty) in adults and children. Everything from minor behavioral distortions to strong feelings of fear, sadness, frustration, etc. and they are impacting functioning at home and at school.

Questions and Answers

Q: How can we help kids that struggle with masks.

A: Masks cover 75% - 80% of the face and some kids are more sensitive to that than others. The 6ft. social distancing requirement is not as impactful on students as the masks are. Try to find opportunities to safely connect with friends and family, such as at a park. Kids need to talk about what is going on and how they feel. If parents can help them identify what is missing, such as connection, then they can help come up with ideas to help.

We would like recess to be unmasked time, but students struggle with maintaining social distancing. Unmasked lunches are helpful as are outdoor snacks.

Q: How do we help kids deal with the constant changes? Things opening and closing and cancelled plans?

A: We have to explicitly teach kids to be flexible. Make multiple plans, engage kids in the process and keep an open dialogue. Teach young people to view crisis as an opportunity. Help them look for things they can look forward to despite changes.

Q: What resources do you recommend?

A: A resource list will be part of the presentation. Since it is on WebEx it can be recorded.

Q: Is there a presentation for teachers since they are dealing with a lot?

A (Principal): Staff meetings always start with an opportunity to check-in and share. Staff members are tired, and they are worrying about how to meet the needs of their students and are facing feelings of being less than competent. Staff can really use words of encouragement.

May do some quick videos with students saying thank-you.

Staff will never express outwardly what is going on inside, they want students to feel they are going someplace safe.

Collaboration: Collaboration is important for learning. Teachers are leveraging WebEx more effectively to allow kids to work together more often. Using break-out rooms has been transformational for online teachers. Some teachers are creatively using their space to organize desks to facilitate safe small groups. Some teachers have put Velcro circles around the room to keep a circle during morning meeting, even if it takes up the entire room. Teachers are working to refine collaboration.

Second grade does an interview where the student doing the interview holds a clipboard to symbolize that they are the interviewers, they cannot do that now, so the challenge is learning to work around and with those limitations.

The school is doing a better job in small group reading as opposed to small group math. Some of it has to do with how much mental energy teachers have for innovating teaching small math groups. It is coming.

The small group math action plan is being revised. It does not necessarily focus on just small groups but also how kids talk to each other about math. Also using flip learning where the students watch a video about the concepts and then have instruction. A lot of teachers are gaining tracking in flipped lessons on math.

Questions and Answers with the Principal

Q: Is there an update on quarantining after Thanksgiving for families that travel?

A: There is no update. Staff are concerned about an outbreak after Thanksgiving.

It is difficult to know what to do. While it doesn't feel good to have 75 unmasked kids in the gym eating lunch or 25 in the classroom, but when it is windy and cold that is the option. There are also the logistics of keeping classes in cohorts. The school has communicated with the Mountain Shadows board about the use of the park. There have not been any complaints about the kids playing in the park.

Q: How long will the free lunches last?

A: It is a federal program that will go through December 31st. Online students need to visit high school for free lunches.

Q: Is there any concern we will run out of disposable masks?

A: A box of 50 from the district costs \$5 - \$8 and about 5 – 10 are distributed a day. Most kids have back-up masks if their first mask becomes unwearable. A lot of CARES money is going into technology and to buy things to help leverage technology more effectively. Masks and hand sanitizer also come from CARES.

Masks ought to be washed every night. Have a 5-day supply of Masks.

Next SAC meeting is January 5, 2021