

School Accountability Committee – SAC
Chipeta Elementary School via WebEx
February 1, 2022

Attendance

Sarah Scott
Amelie Riendl
Becca Philipsen
Cara Woundy
Danielle Snelson
Ian Ratz
Jamie Wright
Lindsey Szymaszek
Rachel McCormack
S Schneider
Jennifer Layher

A. Call to Order

B. Welcome

C. Reading of Minutes

Minutes from January 2022 approved.

D. Administration

COVID-19 and Staffing Updates:

- One class had to go to remote learning last week due to the lack of a substitute.
- There were 14 staff members out on Friday, January 28th due mostly to COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- Chipeta is not currently an outbreak site because families cannot confidently verify that their cases of COVID-19 came from their student's exposure to someone at Chipeta.
- COVID-19 exposure notifications were going out to some families multiple times a week due to multiple infections in a class and it became overwhelming to keep up with that volume.
 - Classes that have not had recent exposures will receive notification
 - Parents should assume their child has been exposed
- Substitutes
 - After parent testimony in newsletter about how easy it is to become a substitute teacher a few parents signed up to sub at Chipeta.
 - \$180 per day pay is making a difference.

5 Essentials: From University of Chicago: When District 11 Superintendent Dr. Thomas came on-board, he wanted to look at schools more broadly than just test scores.

5 Essentials looks at school performance in the 5 areas

Effective Leaders
Collaborative Teachers
Supportive Environment
Involved Families
Ambitious Instruction

Parents, teachers, educational staff, and 4th and 5th graders are given questionnaires to answer to evaluate how they perceive the school in these five areas.

- Scores are negatively impacted by the pandemic
- Chipeta still weakest in “Collaborative Teachers”
 - Teachers didn’t have opportunities to observe colleagues to develop ideas and give feedback
 - Gave teachers opportunities to observe
 - Had structure days with team observations and time to talk about what they saw and gain ideas for their own instruction.
- Ambitious Instruction: Took a hit during pandemic. This question is student focused. Do the teachers expect me to do my best? Do I have to work hard? Do I have to think hard?
 - We are missing some kids.
 - Instruction too easy and doesn’t engage the child.
 - Instruction too difficult and the child disengages.
 - Difficult to do things like small group instruction when students and staff have to social distance.
- The results of this survey are shared by the principal to the staff, starting with the leadership team. It wouldn’t do the school any good it wasn’t shared, discussed, and acted upon by the staff.
- Chipeta had the strongest scores in District 11 pre-pandemic. Scores are still strong than most other District 11 schools.
- Scores are down across the country because of the pandemic.
- A persistently low area is problematic which is why Chipeta is focusing on Collaborative Teaching.
 - Trust and relationships are very important. Since the district has left the question of masking to individuals. This has created some negative feelings among staff.

Helping Students Impacted by the Marshall Fire (Discussed in PTA meeting on 2/1/22 as well). This June will mark ten years since the Waldo Canyon Fire.

- Looking to do something in April and May. Waldo Canyon taught the community that interest is often high in the beginning but as the months go on fewer people are willing to help.
- Going to work with the Boulder Valley School District Foundation to determine what the needs are.
- Parent Comment: Consider reaching out to families that have been displaced out of the district due to a lack of available housing.
 - Also, some families are only getting 30% of what it will cost to rebuild due to rising costs. This is on top of having to inventory everything they lost. A lot of complications related to the Marshall fire.
- Can we do a survey to ask Chipeta families what information, connections in Boulder and ideas they have?
- Reaching out to former Chipeta students who are now in high school and college who lost their homes I Waldo Canyon to find out what assistance was most meaningful to them.
- After the Waldo Canyon fire an art teacher came to Chipeta and help art classes for students and residents.
 - Students were heartbroken they lost their artwork.
 - Art was therapeutic for many people.

E. Subcommittee Reports

PTA: Next meeting 2/1/2022 at 6:30

DAC meetings: 2/17, 3/17, 4/21 and 5/12

F. Miscellaneous

- District 11 is hosting a listening circle on 2/2/22. RSVP is requested. Refreshments and childcare provided.
- “I matter” providing Colorado youth with 3 mental health sessions. Information went out in the January newsletter and will be in the February newsletter.
- E-mail and ask questions of District 11 administration. Make your voice heard.
- Talk with your friends and neighbors about why Chipeta is a great school for your family. Many families that choose Chipeta do so because friends told them about it.
- Chipeta’s enrollment is near 400. Ideally want it closer to 450.
- Improving the presentation for kindergarten information night. Incoming kindergarteners will be in small groups. A book will be read to them, and they will do a drawing project. Families will get tours of the building.

- What is the morale at Chipeta like? A little up and a little down. At one point kindergarten was down three teachers. People are trying to keep their spirits up. On Fridays there is something special for teachers in the lounge.
- Parents can bring in treats. Since they are for adults, they do not have to be individually wrapped.
- If your child mentions something specific about their school day that stood out to them, e-mail their teachers. It means a lot for teachers to hear about those specific things.