

School Accountability Committee – SAC
Chipeta Elementary School via WebEx
January 12, 2021

Attendees:

Sarah Scott
Amanda Obringer
Megan MacMillan
Jamie Wright
Kristie Cichello
Arin Holecek
Danielle Snelson
Alana Gregory
Jennifer Layher

A. Welcome and Introductions

B. Minutes from November 3, 2020 approved

Library diversity audit- Kristie Cichello

A library audit is a look at the diversity of our library's collection to determine if it reflects the population of our school and provides a well-rounded base of literature for our students. Students want to find themselves in their library also called "affirming mirror" books about their experiences. They also want to find new material to read.

The audit: The purpose of the audit is to see where Chipeta is in reaching the goal of a diverse library where students can find materials that reflect them in various ways including ethnicity, race, disability and neurodiversity.

How: We will start by researching our community at Chipeta starting with racial break-down which is information we already have. Then we must collect data on the titles in our library. Ms. Cichello will be working with Titlewave by Follett to assist in this process. Once the data sets are complete, they will be compared to see how Chipeta's current collection compares to our community.

Implementation: While Chipeta does have diverse books, we need to make sure they are current. Things have changed a lot in the last thirty years. However, just because a book is not current does not mean it will be removed. An important piece of education is to see where we came from. Then Ms. Cichello will decide what types of books need to be purchased. After that, funds will need to be set aside to make those purchasing.

Students: One big component is to let students have a voice in their library and acquiring books. A teacher shared a memory of a well-read student who was glad to have books that both reflected her own experiences, but also actively sought to learn about people very different from her.

There is a lot of work being done in the country and in district 11 in this regard. Have to make sure books factually represent people and groups and not promote one over the other.

There may be push back. Some parents objected to the assignment of Planet Omar as this year's school-wide reading book since the protagonist is from an Islamic family. However, the book is not about Islam but dealing with bullying.

SAC attendees were excited about the plan and asked to have progress reports once the project is underway.

Chipeta Parent Information Night

Several ideas being considered for how to host Parent Information Night.

-You Tube Live

-Make a video with some old kindergarten footage, give tour of the building and introduce staff

-WebEx meetings with small groups of prospective parents, Ms. Scott and one of the kindergarten teachers to allow parents to ask questions.

-Record current Chipeta parents sharing why they send their children to Chipeta- looking for parents who want to share

-Looking for other ideas or examples of things that have worked elsewhere for similar events

Children and Current Events

We have a lot of transitions all at one time: the holidays, back to school remotely, returning in-person, the riot in Washington D.C., and the upcoming inauguration.

Some children are handling current events well, others are really struggling. Teachers will talk about the inauguration and the peaceful transfer of power, but they will be given the freedom of timing so they can do it when it makes the most sense for the needs of their students.

Transition to In-person

About 10 students will be moving to online learning and only two are moving from online to in-person.

Some teachers are concerned about the spread of the mutated virus. Chipeta will continue strenuous safety protocols. Kids will probably still eat lunch outside because most indoor transmission occurs when people are eating.

Principal will send video on mask wearing to remind students of the efficacy and importance not just for their own health, but that of everyone around them.

On-line learning success runs the full spectrum from students who have flourished with the flexibility online learning can provide to students who struggle with the format. Asynchronous days are difficult for some parents because their children struggle to do the work without the accountability of their teacher and the parents must work from home so they cannot constantly monitor their children. Morning meetings on Monday are invaluable to set expectations for students and to connect with their teachers.

Homework should never be a battle. If it gets late and it is not done, communicate with the teacher.

Suggestion: Have kids start at the bottom and work up. The more difficult concepts are usually covered at the end so if they do those first the questions get easier as they work up the page and also if they don't complete the top part of the worksheet, they still did the more in-depth work.

PTA

Meeting January 12, 2021 at 6:30 to introduce the candidates for the open board positions.

Potential Topics for next meeting on February 2, 2021

What are we doing to mitigate teacher stress?

Asynchronous Mondays are working to help alleviate stress.

Showcase of learning for this spring.