

School Accountability Committee—SAC
Chipeta Elementary School
February 7, 2017

Attendance:

Sarah Scott
Cindy Maluschka
Lesley Modaff
Alana Gregory
Craig Casper
Roxanne Maez
Eddie Hurt
Lindsay Dougherty
Jamie Wright
Treg Joslyn
Jessica Curtis
Amanda Obringer
Annis Hodgkins
Jennifer Layher

A. Call to order: 5:00 pm

B. Welcome: Lindsay Dougherty
Introductions

C. Minutes from 1/10/2017 approved

D. Administration:

- Design Thinking: A process for solving problems. For example, to deal with noise in the lunchroom and hallways, staff and students are working together to find solutions.
- Project Based Learning: Mrs. Guis' class looked in to the issues surrounding homelessness in Colorado Springs. They learned to interview and spoke to people in the community work with the homeless population. They split into three groups. One visited Morning Star senior assisted living. One group visited Holmes to pack bag packs so that students that need food over the weekend have it. The third group visited West Side Cares. The students learned that the people they met were human and just wanted to be respected.
 - The project managers presented their project to the staff as the kick-off for the staff meeting. It was an incredible experience for these students.

- Competency based learning: How do we take a standard and identify the competencies a student needs for success now and in the future.
- The newsletter is being revamped. How can we reach the broader community so they know what is happening at Chipeta? How do we tell them who we are and what is happening at our school?
 - Can we share our message through Mountain Shadows, Pinon Valley, etc. social media?
 - Can we partner with Trailblazer to share information through those outlets?
 - Show our community what is happening in public education

Everyone in attendance was given a page listing our goals:

1. Increase parent awareness and understanding of our current mission and vision statements.
2. Collaboratively determine what the words in the mission and vision mean and what they look like in application throughout the school and learning.
2. Generate questions for school staff and to ask other parents that will increase understanding.

Our Mission: Chipeta Elementary is an inclusive community in which children are nurtured and challenged to become learners now and for the future.

Vision: Chipeta: Self-directed learners collaborating, taking risks, and problem solving to change their world.

Each person in attendance was asked to identify words in the mission and vision and then jot down: 1. What the words mean to you. 2. how you see them in action at Chipeta and 3. How you envision them to be implemented as instruction changes (what this could look like).

This process lead to an informative and wide-ranging discussion.

Among the words that stood out the most: inclusive, community nurtured, taking risks, change their world.

Inclusive: comments included: Every student is part of the school no matter their background or ability. Students with special needs are embraced and the relationship between parents and the school is cooperative rather than adversarial.

Community comments included: Staff seem invested in their students. Teachers recognize students out and about around town, even students who have never been in their classes. The principal knows the students. Parents feel welcomed at the school.

Nurtured comments included: The staff at Chipeta care about the whole child, not just their academic performance. Their interests are encouraged.

Taking risks comments included: Teachers learning to be more comfortable taking risks. Teaching students that failure is an opportunity to learn. The phrase “Failing Forward” was used. Failure can be used to move the learning process forward.

- Example: The school has always had a Master Schedule with time allotted for each subject. With such scheduling you lose the opportunity for integration between content areas.
 - How can we open it up so that teachers can generate multiple schedules for set learning days and integrated learning days?
 - Reading and writing can be easily taught in science and social studies.
 - Wonders (reading curriculum) supports our standards, but what else can, too?
 - Students use Microsoft 365 to collaborate on research with other students.
 - Each grade level team can be given a schedule. Some things, like Walk-to-read is part of the READ act and is state law, so it has to happen on schedule.

Change their world comments included: Students start to learn that their choices affect their world around them. They can take action that will impact their world.

Other comments:

- Blended learning: Using paper, having a conversation and using the computer. Let students make a choice about how to complete the task most effectively.
- Give students the opportunity to learn time management. A goal with steps that they have to complete. Help students learn to advocate with their teachers for their needs.

Habits of mind vs. Habits of work: There are 16 habits of mind including persistence and open minded questioning.

- Skills and behavior box on our report card is too narrow. Trying to categorize the habits of mind. Ultimately, the goal is for students not just to aim for 100 percent on their assignments, but to also master the associated skills and competencies to be successful. The student will know not only how well they did on the work, but also what skills and competencies they are proficient in.

Next Steps: Use this information and start to generate a process of a series of questions to use in roundtable discussions with a different sample of parents.

Part of working on the newsletter is making it more effective at communicating what we are doing.

Some of the topics and concepts discussed above may be broken down and assigned for discussion in SAC meetings next year.

Once we figure out the process we can do it with students. What is their perspective about their learning?

Proposed idea: Create a video where people talk about the things we discussed.

SAC needs to connect with parents. Maybe have a parent, such as the room parents, send information to the parents for a more personal connection. Highlight two or three questions we addressed and highly the answers instead of giving them the full minutes.

Find an effective way to use Blackboard (moving there from NTouch system) to effectively reach out.

There is still a lot to discuss so this discussion will resume at the April SAC meeting (4/4).

E. SAC Officers for 2017 – 2018 vote:

1. President: Amanda Obringer
2. Vice President: Alana Gregory
3. Secretary: Jennifer Layher

Each vote was held for each position individually. Each vote was unanimous with no opposing.

F. Subcommittee Reports

- PTA: Needs help obtaining items for the silent auction. They have assembled information on how to approach businesses and a spread sheet for people to immediately log any businesses approached to avoid asking twice. Find the information and the tracking spreadsheet at: tinyurl.com/chipetaauctionhelp
- DAC: DAC training was beneficial. There was supposed to be a break out session for elementary, middle school and high school, but the 3 presenters went over so there wasn't time.

G. Miscellaneous

- Friday Night Notes: District weekly update. Can be forwarded to SAC attendees.
- Hawk Night: Holmes staff obviously put a lot of work and effort into Hawk Night. Families felt welcome. The second night (last week) was not as well attended as the first one in the fall so the push to have it sooner paid off. It helped that Chipeta students were able to tour Holmes the day before to build interest and excitement.
- PARCC and CMAS testing will start the second day after spring break. This will allow teachers and students to work up until spring break and then test afterward.

H. Next meeting 4/4

Adjourn