

Palmer SAC Minutes
November 8, 2018 7:00 – 8:29 am
in the Palmer Community Room

<u>Parent Members</u>		<u>School Members</u>		<u>Community & Student Members</u>	
Deirdre Aden-Smith (chair)	x	Michael Chamberlain	x	Michelle Elstun	
Jaqueline Dowds Bennett	x	Kandy Claybaugh	x	Robin Hammitt	x
Tom Remick		Lara Disney		Bailey Larson	x
Carl Schueler (DAC)	x	Dan Geiser	x		
Kathy Solomon (secretary)	x				

The meeting was called to order by Deirdre at 7:05 a.m.

1. Minutes were approved with a spelling correction.
2. District Accountability Committee (DAC) report (Carl)
 There is a DAC training scheduled tonight (round robin format).

The Budget Subcommittee:

D11’s budget is very tight due to reduced enrollment, so the Budget Subcommittee is not making any midyear modifications this school year.

A question was raised about whether D11 had approved a charter application, and whether this might be due to concerns about reducing funds to D11.

- Carl explained that there is a big (one time!) financial hit to the district for in-district charter schools.
- For the recent charter application, there was a lot of concern about the model presented.

3. Q1 F Rate (Dan)

Grade Level	Course	F Rate (as of 10/12)
9	Algebra 1	9.4%
9	English 1	12.6%
9	Physical Earth Science (PES)	5.6%
9	World History / Geography	3.8%
9	Computer Applications	19.2%
9	PE	6.7%
9	Spanish 1	8.5%
10	Integrated Math	21.1%
10	English 3	17.9% (now 6.3%)

- Data shown above is for “regular” (non-honors) courses.
- ~32 kids per grade level earned 4+ Fs during Q1 of 2018-19.
- Dan can now get F rate and attendance rate data at a click of a button, broken down by course and grade.
- Most 9th graders receive Tier 2 instruction through their Study Skills class, but most 10th graders have a free period so it’s more difficult to track them down to provide Tier 2 intervention.
- PLCs are working hard to adjust instruction as needed. Algebra 1 teachers have been discussing student attendance and lack of engagement; students are fighting to be on their phones. Students feed off the teacher’s energy, so are more likely to be engaged when the teacher is energized.

4. Poverty (Dan)

Palmer's Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL) rate increased to 58% this school year. Since 2011, Palmer's FRL had been 51-52%. This data is not very accessible, due to legal restrictions.

Palmer teachers are doing a book study on *Poor Kids, Rich Teachers* and focusing on teaching students of poverty.

5. Parent-Teacher Conferences (Dan)

October Conferences - 1764 parent teacher conferences were held (an increase over prior years). There were 37 time slots available for conferences, and 6 teachers had 30+ conferences. On average, teachers each had over 22 conferences.

Mid-Quarter Conferences - had a positive turnout.

6. UIP (Dan)

Dan had submitted UIP-related questions to D11 in early September, and he just got a response before homecoming week. He needs to work with Ms. Brilliant (who is out of the office until 11/15) before he can post Palmer's UIP, but he will get this completed by 11/19.

Glaring gaps in Palmer's SPF are with performance by English Language Learners (ELL) and Special Education (SpEd) students. College Board releases test questions, and Dan pulled the 14 "easy" questions and gave these to Study Skills and SpEd teachers to practice with their students. Dan tried to administer the test in a SpEd course, but most of the students had lots of self-doubt and wouldn't even try to take the test; with a lot of encouragement, he got some students to try, and they did get some questions correct. He will do this with "medium" questions also. Test familiarization could help ELL students as well.

7. Social-Emotional Learning (Dan)

Are Palmer teachers trained to detect symptoms of mental illness? Current teachers are not trained to deal with this, although the teacher education curriculum has changed and more recently trained teachers may be more educated in this area.

AVID has that connection with kids, but those kids also have individual determination; they must apply to be in the AVID program.

8. State Assessments (Dan)

PSAT scores were passed out during conferences. English teachers distributed PSAT scores during 10th grade conferences, and math teachers distributed PSAT scores for 11th grade students.

Personalized learning plans are available to prepare for these tests.

Historically Palmer alumni have done a test prep day on a Saturday.

9. Safety

The badge scan system has been outstanding.

Palmer will be arming doors, to alarm when anyone exits.

Palmer's Security Team is very good. One member has a SWAT team background.

10. Alumni Report (Robin)

The Alumni Association doesn't have much going on now, and is in post-homecoming "hangover".

11/10 Alumni meeting: will salute Alumni who are veterans. The Board will be deciding on a monetary request.

12/8 Alumni meeting: Chamber Singers will perform, and there will be an Alumni Santa Claus.

As an organization, Palmer's Alumni Association is struggling with finding volunteers. Although 45-50 people typically show up at monthly meetings, the majority of members are in their 80's.

11. Principal's Report (Dan)

Speech & Debate – hosting a tournament at Palmer this Saturday.

Knowledge Bowl – competing this Saturday at Manitou.

International Baccalaureate (IB) – Diploma Program (DP) invitations were sent out to sophomores who are a good fit. IB Coffee & Conversation sessions are scheduled on 11/13 (choice of 3 times that parents may attend). An IB Advisory Board meeting is scheduled 11/14 at 7:30am.

12. Student Council (StuCo) Report (Bailey)

Turkey Turn Up (club get together) – is scheduled this Friday 6:30-9pm. There will be different stations, including a movie in the lecture hall and an obstacle course. Most of the \$3/student entrance fee will be split between clubs, but some money will be used to help a family that has medical expenses.

Project Angel Heart – A lady from this organization presented to StuCo yesterday. Their kitchen provides food a few times a week to clients with life-threatening illnesses. In order for a patient to participate, a doctor must refer the patient to the program. StuCo agreed to draw/paint 100 bags by next Friday; the decorated bags will be used to deliver meals.

Care & Share -- collection is in progress.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Upcoming Palmer SAC Meetings: December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9