

Palmer SAC Minutes
January 10, 2019 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 7:12 a.m. (Late start due to delay getting parents through security and into the building.)

1. Minutes were approved.
2. District Accountability Committee (DAC) report (Carl)
 - There hasn't been a DAC meeting in a while.
 - The focus of the meeting tonight will be on balancing the budget, and staffing will need to be reallocated due to declining enrollment. It's not as bad as it looks because of using the 5 year enrollment average.
 - Carl will get us the date of the next SAC/parent training.
 - The [DAC newsletter](#) is very informative.
 - Last night at the BOE meeting, the UIPs for Priority Turnaround schools were approved.
3. Tutoring Center

Palmer is trying to find more tutors to work in the tutoring center. The number of students volunteering in this role is down, so they are seeking students with free periods to volunteer at the tutoring center. It's especially helpful for students in Honors classes to volunteer in the tutoring center because their courses tend to focus on the higher-level math, but the College Board exams focus on the heart of algebra, and that's what students coming to the tutoring center need help on, so it helps both the tutors and those being tutored.
4. Culture & Climate

A rebranding project was kicked off 2 years ago with a student and staff survey, and a visit to Widefield High School since they have a really good PBIS program.

 - Marketing – A new logo is being used, and this logo is part of the email signature of all staff members. Motto: Pride Honor Strength.
 - Recognition – Through Terror TV, Palmer is honoring students & staff who exhibit these traits. Wendy's \$5 cards are awarded to students. Staff will be rewarded through the student store.
 - Consistent Expectations - Looking at having a matrix for dress code and other parts of the discipline code.
5. Professional Development

Staff is still doing a book study with the Jenson book: *Poor Students, Rich Teachers*. It's a long book, so it's taking a while. The book gives tools, like learning kids names right away and greeting them at the door.

After winter break, staff attended a Brain research (poverty and the brain) lecture by Jim Henkle. They learned about HeartMath, about slowing down your heart rate, which slows down your thinking, so you have better thinking. In people living in poverty, the brain is letting out cortisol due to fight-or-flight response, so their thoughts are going too fast.

Staff watched a film called *Push Out*; which differentiates between dropping out and being pushed out. You never know when an incident will be the final straw that makes a kid quit school.

Palmer staff are also learning from the *Fostering Resilient Learners* book, by Kristin Souers and Pete Hall. We need to set expectations, but we also need to look at the full situation before disciplining, since many kids are traumatized, to some degree.

6. Permits and Enrollment

Palmer had 8th grade Open House before winter break. The D11 permit window is still open. Palmer has a net of students permitting in.

Palmer has a reputation of being very welcoming. This is one reason that students permit into Palmer. This reputation isn't always viewed positively; recently for 2 consecutive days, there was a man outside Palmer stating that unless you are "straight", you are going to hell.

Palmer's student count is predicted to go down only slightly... 20-30 kids over 5 years. It's a prediction, a model, and may not be accurate.

Downward enrollment in D11 is expected (more so in D11 than elsewhere in state) mostly due to charter schools. Palmer loses kids to dropouts, and these kids wouldn't typically function well at a charter school. Palmer has 9th & 10th graders who have significant personal issues, and it's difficult to address their issues. Maybe Wasson could create a program to better serve them.

7. UIP Progress

Palmer has a problem with non-performing kids. Some students with very few credits like to be at Palmer.

Palmer's SPF goals for SpEd students are very aggressive.

Palmer is currently doing WIDA testing for ELL students. Palmer is more confident about meeting goals for ELL growth and achievement than for meeting goals for SpEd students. The students give it their best effort, but it's brutal for kids learning English to take the College Boards.

Next year, one study skills class will be AVID-like.

Tom Hunt (D11 Power BI expert) just developed a dashboard for teachers that shows (by class) for each student: college board totals/percentile/at risk (attendance/behavior/...)

8. Staff culture

Due to D11 cutbacks, teachers may not be able to attend conferences due to budget cuts, even if they have been approved as a presenter.

D11 is trying to promote specific programs at different schools... differentiating schools.

The pay increase was nice! This helped immensely.

9. Gifted and Talented

Palmer has 217 identified GT kids.

Last year D11 had Logan Laszczyk oversee Naviance, but this year Logan is in a different position. There's no one at the district level to oversee Naviance, but maybe someone does this part time. They are finalizing where things will be updated on a regular nightly basis into Naviance – working with the vendor on this.

Clever login system for students, and new login system for teachers. They are trying to get the word out about this. Several websites still show old login information. Michael Chamberlain is the go-to person for Naviance in D11 for middle school and high school GT.

22% of Palmer GT kids have set goals in Naviance as part of ALP. He will be sending more information out to students, again. Initial goal setting takes 15-20 minutes. There's also follow up, but Michael isn't going to focus on that this year. It's wonderful to be sticking with Naviance (previously had been changing systems annually). It's a hard sell to get kids to fill in ALP when they are being served well, e.g. the courses they have are already challenging them.

Michael plans to start a lunch group for social emotional issues, including perfectionism.

The State is looking at doing more with talent identification (e.g. music, dance, art), and Michael will need to work more with art & performing arts teachers to make sure these students are served.

10. College Board Test Prep

Coronado is bringing in a group for "Prep for the future" college board practice before SAT/PSAT tests. Palmer does test prep mostly after school. Deirdre requested advance posting (now) of State testing online. March isn't that far out, and Deirdre would like this in the newsletter. Kandy explained that the newsletter is quarterly. Michael sometimes needs to get the word out between newsletters.

11. Stucco

1/5 Palmer sold bracelets and had a "red out" basketball game to show support for a Coronado student who has stage 4 cancer.

1/18 Sports assembly since plays Doherty that night at home. All sports captains will be introduced.

1/19 Spring Dance in Eagles wing (had been at big gym)

2/22 Talent Show. Doherty has girls & guys compete. Palmer has had just Mr. Terror, and may be going with Mr. & Mrs. Terror or whatever is most inclusive (stucco will meet with GSTA regarding terminology) this year

12. Alumni

1/12 CSPD Canine Unit will visit the Alumni Breakfast.

Robin is finalizing the 7 scholarships offered (total ~\$13,000) this week. Scholarship application deadline is 3/14. There's a single application for all Palmer alumni scholarships, and the scholarship committee decides which scholarship is most appropriate for each applicant. Karen Whitney Gilbert is a new \$2000 scholarship weighted more toward demonstrating community/service/volunteer oriented. Grades will be a secondary focus for this scholarship. The Bob Isaac scholarship is weighted more on student need rather than grades.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

Upcoming Palmer SAC Meetings: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9