

Palmer SAC Minutes
April 18, 2019 7:00 – 8:28
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		Michelle Elstun	x
Jaqueline Dowds Bennett		Kandy Claybaugh		Robin Hammitt	x
Tom Remick	x	Lara Disney	x	Bailey Larson	
Carl Schueler (DAC)	x	Dan Geiser			
Kathy Solomon (secretary)	x				

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

1. Minutes from last month were approved with a couple corrections.
2. District Accountability Committee (DAC)
 - Had training recently
 - Strategic Planning is the focus for BOE/Superintendent
 - Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) – major point of focus. Carl proposed tracking Parent Engagement quantitatively. (1:1 staff-to-parent involvement with their student’s learning, use level 1...3. Engagement doesn’t have to be positive to be considered engaged. If no one has 1:1 engagement with a particular students’ parent, then a staff member might reach out to that family to develop a relationship.
 - Budget – cutting 120 positions across district (most are “not fill” of teacher/ESP positions due to decreased enrollment). In past have done 2 budget modification times. Making some additions to the budget even though cutting in other areas... if an area is particularly valued, fund it. Full day kindergarten may now be funded by the state. What will D11 spend these funds on? BOE would like to see night school come back, since that reaches a different demographic. Night school can be used for credit recovery, so kids still graduate with their class.
3. Bike Parking

Bike parking was recently moved up front. The consensus was that this is an improvement.
4. Accessibility

A parent mentioned that it is almost impossible for a disabled student to get into the building, especially in snow. Parents cannot park close to the entrance because handicapped spots are already taken.

One elevator is broken, so a class was moved to another classroom to accommodate a student who uses a wheeled chair.

Sometimes staff members sit out at the Weber doors to assist with opening the door for mobility-challenged students, but no one is outside assisting at Nevada door. Concern was expressed about this.

It was suggested that someone ask the City and/or D11 to create an ADA parking stall with ramp along Nevada; Lara will bring this up with facilities. There is one stall on Weber, but it typically is occupied by someone with handicap tag.
5. International Baccalaureate (IB)

Palmer is working to emphasize global culture, and is looking for a sister school in China. The 9th and 10th grade IB MYP program will be bulked up.

The 2018-2019 senior class has 40 students enrolled in IB courses; some of these students will not earn an IB Diploma due to dropping IB courses.

66 sophomores chose IB DP, but there's always attrition as students progress.

MS Moyer is working with the freshman class to communicate what IB DP is; some students think IB DP is too hard, and therefore "not for me".

6. D11 Orgametrics survey

Results were provided to all D11 staff. Some questions were a little "loosely worded" so it was difficult to know whether a response was geared toward a particular school or toward the district in general.

Improvement areas identified for Palmer:

- Communication – use different methods
- Mission & vision – questions about "Are we an IB World school?" "Are we an AVID school?" Palmer will do reteaching of staff on IB World School and what that means. AVID is one of the strategies that will be used to support the IB MYP program. Palmer will be using AVID strategies at the 9th grade level to help students with organization, e.g. "Interactive Notebook" which will be used in all 9th grade core courses (math, English, science, social studies, world language). Palmer will continue offering AVID courses.
- Equity & bias – aligns with equity, opportunity, and accessibility of D11 strategic plan

7. Standards 2020

Palmer is being asked to use a number of modules:

- Understanding the literacy standards and how it applies in particular areas
- There is more emphasis on annotating articles, primary & secondary sources
- Departments are being asked to teach things differently – emphasize rebooting and MYP.
- Contents facilitators are supporting these changes.

8. Parent Engagement

(refer to MTSS under SAC)

9. School Safety

Questions were raised about rooms not being large enough. D11 Risk Management talked about the size of the band room. Only the auditorium is big enough for the entire band to meet; the auxiliary gym has awful acoustics. If the band class were moved, where would equipment be stored? Palmer might need a band room modification, but that expense is not in the budget.

10. USIP Submittal

Final draft was submitted (with a couple grammatical fixes) to CDE. Lara will check with Dan to get that posted/marked on Palmer's webpage.

Uip goal was about engaging all students. Teachers were asked to provide 3 specific examples

11. Staffing

Palmer's staffing numbers have not yet been finalized by the BOE. That will be finalized next Wed.

Approximately 11 Palmer certified staff members are not being rehired: 2 math, 2 science, 1 social studies, 2.4 English, 1 health/PE, .4 digital media, and 1.4 foreign language. Lara moved 1 counselor slot to teaching. The grad point admin will assume after school duties. The intervention person will now teach some reading classes.

Palmer is losing a building leadership team (BLT) position, so they will be down 12 positions total.

Some staff members received a letter before spring break telling them they would not be retained. Since at least 3 staff members are retiring, some of those who received the letter are being retained. There was a resignation in English, so Lara revoked a non-renewal before it was sent out.

More staff members will have split duties than before, e.g. world language + reading.

12. PSAT Participation Levels

Palmer is doing PSAT 9/10 makeups today, working hard to get to 95% participation.

13. Alumni

An alumni breakfast was held this past Saturday. Salute to Education recognized Barb Bell, who is leaving at the end of the school year.

The Senior Brunch will be on May 15.

Michele will be honorary alumni attending graduation

22 scholarship applications (that's less than last year) were received, and these will be going to the selection committee.

14. Upcoming Activities

Palmer will be doing a big internal celebration to recognize seniors.

Seniors each will announce where they are going after graduation, and then they will ring the bell.

Students selected the keeper (not rental) gowns, and they picked brown (typically for males) & white (typically for females) as gown colors. Jostens was awarded the contract.

Jostens has the contract for yearbooks, rings, also.

Per D11 directive, students may not decorate their caps.

15. Enrollment

1537 students are currently on the books for next year. Lara expects more freshman, but also the loss of some 10th & 11th graders. Palmer's staffing allocations were based on the 1517 projection.

16. Student Council (Stu Co) -- no report

17. Awards

Cspan will be coming to Palmer on 5/7 to recognize a couple students that won an award for a documentary. Fox News interviewed them recently.

Katherine (Koco) Kummel 2nd place at the state science fair.

18. Modified Bell Schedule

Kids don't like getting to school 5 minutes earlier, but this was the most logical option to make up the time.