

**Sabin Middle School**  
**School Accountability Committee**  
**8/26/19**

Attendance:

Parent Members:

Neil Pettigrew(Chair)

Velvet Stepanek

Cinde Gordon

Alicia Sweat

Steve Stepp

School Members:

Bill Walker

Jared Welch

Community Members:

**THEME:** Orientation to a new school year and USIP development

Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00

1. Introductions
2. Approve agenda  
We added a discussion about Discovery class and consequence follow through.
3. SAC officers and schedule for the 2019 – 2020 school year:  
Neil Pettigrew, SAC Chair, [neil70retiredpet@gmail.com](mailto:neil70retiredpet@gmail.com)  
Velvet Stepanek, SAC Secretary, [vstepanek@msn.com](mailto:vstepanek@msn.com)  
Meeting dates for 2019: September, no meeting; October 7<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>; 2020 dates later
4. SAC overview for new members:
  - a. A monthly meeting for parents and school staff members to share ideas, successes, and concerns;
  - b. To make recommendations to the principal of the school and the superintendent concerning preparation of a Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP for short);
  - c. To meet at least monthly to discuss how school leadership, personnel, and infrastructure are advancing implementation of the school's USIP and other progress pertinent to the school's accreditation contract;
  - d. To make recommendations to the principal on the school priorities for spending school moneys;
  - e. Composition of the SAC: principal, teacher, 4 parents, 1 community member (as a minimum).
  - f. There is a SAC website off of the Sabin page. It includes dates, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, as well as the School USIP.
5. Staffing for the 2019 – 2020 School year:  
Enrollment was projected at 755. We have 775 students currently enrolled so we are above projections. Last year we had a cut of 2 1/2 FTEs. We had to hire a 0.5 ELA teacher and 0.5 Science teacher. Because of enrollment increases we are able to have a fulltime ELA and science. We started trying to hire science teachers in May but it has been hard to find someone.
6. Discovery Elective Discussion  
There was confusion about what discovery class is. In one discovery class they have watched *Shrek* two times already this year. Discovery classes are things like: Science Olympiad, Yearbook, Woodshop, Girl's Fitness, Film Study, Gardening, etc. The purpose of the class is academic in nature. It is supposed

to be aligned to standards. They are supposed to be providing opportunities to learn in different ways. Intervention for math and reading is also done during that time. Previously, students who had intervention did not get to choose any electives. Now they can.

Mr. Welch had to fill in with this elective last week. The gardening elective is currently being transitioned. We were planning on starting a community garden with the help of a Denver non-profit. The non-profit lost some funding and said they couldn't help with a garden away from the Denver area. The original teacher didn't return. The new teacher that was hired should start later this week.

7. Consistent Consequences for Behavior

Parents mentioned some concerns about teachers saying students were going to get into trouble the next time an infraction occurred. When the problem happened again nothing happened. Consequences must be followed through on. Mr. Welch said in the first two weeks of school teachers are setting up procedures, rules and expectations. Progressive discipline is used with Capturing Kids Hearts. Teachers are encouraging correct behavior, In School Detention is a last resort.

8. Parking lot safety.

With Mr. Lacey's retirement there have been some problems with safety in the parking lot. Mr. Lacey was strict and everyone knew what they were supposed to do. Mr. Welch is going to talk about parking lot safety at the open house. A new security guard is starting next week. He has been going through training. Once he starts we are hopeful that the situation will get better. We don't want anyone to get hurt.

9. Advisory Update

Advisory is now happening 20 minutes, 5 days a week. Last two years the Advisory class was 40 minutes twice a week. Advisory has a different focus on different days of the week: Monday- mission Monday, creating goals, Tuesday and Wednesday – lessons from the Positive Action Curriculum, Thursday – academic check in day and organization skills, Friday – work on connections through play or catching up. There are 15-20 students per advisory group. Neil will be doing observations again this year starting in mid-September.

10. New cell phone policy update.

Teachers are ecstatic. Parents are pushing back some, but all district 11 middle schools are not allowing cell phones this year. Lunch has been better. More benefits are expected as the year continues on without cell phones.

11. Preliminary USIP draft

One page available but will discuss in October.

12. Review 2018 – 2019 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) results.

School Performance Frameworks were released today. Sabin stayed at Improvement. Sabin's score did go up some. Growth data was out a couple of weeks ago. Sabin is making improvements but there is more work to do. Overall, district 11 middle schools performed better this year. Swigert went up two levels because of their growth in ELA. The Language Arts curriculum is more aligned this year. Students at Sabin are starting to make academic goals for improvements.

13. Did we meet this goal for the 2018 – 2019 school year? Decrease chronic absenteeism to 8% or less?  
Current numbers for students at school is around 94%. Front office has changed around. The attendance office is where the business office used to be.
14. School budget and finances  
Mr. Welch provided the school budget. There is a large amount budgeted for Repair copy machines. This amount includes making copies at 2 cents per copy. This seems very large. Mr. Welch said Sabin is trying to cut back on paper copies. He is hoping this amount is well over what is really used.
15. Good news.  
Good start of the year.  
PPLD and the district have worked a program where each student id is a library card. Students will have access to e-books, tutoring, etcetera through the library.  
Multimedia room is almost complete. Some electrical work needs to be done.
16. Upcoming events.  
Open house on Thursday, principal talk then families will go meet the teachers. This is less structured than in the past.
17. Request to provide schedules and lockers  
It was mentioned that it would be nice for students to have access to their schedules and locker locations before the first day of school. Some other middle school provide this information. It would help parents and students feel more at ease when school starts. Mr. Welch listened to our input.