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CARDINAL COMMUNITY ACADEMY

School Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes August 20, 2015

Present:

April Dowdy, Amber Epple, Tara Schutter, Susan Barrier, Ellen Swieter, Karri Cain, Tammy Kester, Kathleen Harrison, and Jody Auer (new 6th grade teacher asked to serve on SAC to replace Becky Diller as middle school representative)

I. Spring 2015 Standardized Test Scores

The new testing levels of proficiency are: distinguished, strong, moderate, or limited command of subject matter. The CMAS test experienced lots of technical problems, but administration of the PARCC went very smoothly.

The Social Studies tested reading and graph reading test skills more than knowledge of the subject. The test also included lots of maps, Colorado State legislature details, and required knowing how to use the software/technology tool- e.g. understand how to use highlighted text, scrolling, boxes (more so on the CMAS than PARCC). The test added Colorado History specific questions this year - e.g. date of the Gold Rush, as well as a lot of civics and economics vocabulary that was unfamiliar for grade level. From now on 4th and 8th grade Social Studies testing is going to be administered using random sample model (to be state controlled). April and Tammy are in the process of adding more Colorado history to 4th (and 8th?), but not at expense of Core Knowledge subject matter in history.

Next spring there will be only one testing window and shall be chosen by the district (Mar1 -Arp 29 is the date range).

Regarding Acuity Testing: CCA petitioned to the district to get out of using this test, but the superintendent said “no” to April. Next step would be for our board to draw up a formal request can be presented to the RE3j board. Would not be able to take effect until 2015-16.

Ellen asked if the SAC wants to request that the CCA board draw up a formal proposal to choose our own mid-year tests. It must be presented positively to the RE3j board.

Members all agreed. Ellen will communicate the request to our board.

Participation in state tests last spring was lower than required because of parental refusals (only about 75% participation). The state requires 95% participation in these tests.

Because CCA has only a maximum of 120 students enrolled in grades 3-8, if more than 6 students refuse the test then CCA falls below 95% participation rate.

Discussion suggested that there is no grace for schools that fall below 95% participation

approved by state legislature as we had hoped last spring. If so CCA could potentially go to “turn-around status” accreditation in 4 years if participation remains below 95%. Is there is no method of redress if participation is below 95% due to opt-outs even if they are documented?

Addendum: For 2015-16 CCA should have the same level of accreditation as it had for 2014-15. According to SB1123, the accountability time-clock for schools is suspended for the 2015-16 school year and resumes in fall 2016 where it left off in spring of 2014. Documented Parental refusals resulting in <95% participation in state assessments are grounds for submitting a request to reconsider accreditation level according to the CDE. The document Submitting Requests to Reconsider, Appendix A- states “ If the 95% participation rate requirement has not been met as a result of **parent refusals** and the district and school have documentation of conversations with families around the importance of assessment participation, CDE may consider a request to reconsider.”

The committee talked about requesting paper test copies (however, we are still under the district and the district is not providing paper copies) to possibly help alleviate parental testing refusals, as well as continue to document emails and conversations with parents about the importance of testing (and offer the paper test as an alternative to parents), so that if the participation in Spring 2016 falls below 95% the groundwork is laid for submitting a Request to Reconsider, should the state lower CCA’s accreditation. The deadline for submitting the Request to Reconsider is September 15th, 2016. We will continue to look at all of our options as the testing cycle approaches.

II. Brain Storming Session

After school care needs about 10 kids to pay for itself. We’ve committed for first semester. Tammy wants to market it with fun activities. E.g Orville Wright’s birthday making paper airplanes. Make a flyer/mass email/web site to advertise the weekly activities. Payment: idea to ask parents buy a punchcard, e.g. 8 days for \$45 (save \$3). Need to have a form specifying the people who are allowed to pick up the students.

Break parent surveys into MS and K-5, thinking of MS as a whole because each student has multiple teachers. Ellen and Kathleen meet with MS teachers to come up with questions.

Add to next agenda a discussion on school discipline and communication

Guest teachers go back to their former grade- e.g. Lisa Cole teaching 3rd on her favorite subject. Renee Waller (former 6th grade teacher).

September 17th as a parent night.

older student/younger student pairing

Julie Epple idea about writing up every student little bio and posting up on wall. writing/interviewing skills. Part of the character ed.

III. Meeting Schedule for remainder of 2015

Sept 15th

Oct 22nd

Nov 12th

Dec 17th