

SAC 9/21/2021 Agenda:

- Introductions
- Open discussion
- Teacher share
- Overview of SAC, our responsibilities, and year-long agenda items
- Current state of Swigert
- Budget and enrollment
- Northeast Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ) update

Notes:

Steve Carter – welcoming comments

- Introductions
 - Steven Carter (parent)
 - Amanda Allshouse (parent)
 - Anne Draper
 - Tabitha Jones
 - Emily Pool
 - Sarah Cox (parent)
 - Richard Fisher
 - Amy (parent)
 - Rachel Adler
 - Liliana Morales (parent)
 - Shelby Dennis
- Open discussion / comment
 - Q: Why did DPS not participate in state funded covid testing (at school)?
 - A: The superintendent did not sign up for this. (possibly because of the staff resources required for testing? Because there are other opportunities for testing in the district is sufficient). Some families/ staff have had a hard time finding weekend options for (free) testing.
 - Q: From an engagement standpoint, how is it going with parents not able to be in the school?
 - (Ann) – 1st grade has a door on the outside, so there is some limited contact with parents (vs other rooms without an exterior door). Everyone is doing the best they can.
 - (Tabitha) – 3rd grade door duty: greeting families on the playground still feels somewhat normal, some families have volunteered to stuff Friday Folders outside of the building (usually this would occur in the classroom).
 - Rachel – it seems like few people watched the youtube back-to-school video, feels less connected to families than typically would this time of year.
 - Discussion: ways to allow families into the building
- Teacher share
 - Anne Draper: 1st grade: learning systems, writing how-to, using transition words, beginning phonics. Many learners were not in Kindergarten. Getting into a routine. Adding and subtracting up to 10. Kids are OK wearing masks, and happy to be in school.
 - Tabitha Jones: 2nd and 3rd: building community, developing classroom routines.
 - Holcomb Mosley 3rd grade: found gaps in the tail end of 1st grade. Working on closing gaps. Kids are eager to be in school, and happy to have started the year in person.

- Rachel Adler (5th) Reading Wonder, unit: Who we are, classroom routines, systems, getting to know each other. Feels comfortable. Kids are happy to be in school. Discussing exploration/migration and exploring the new year / different perspectives. Math: working on volume, it's accessible to the kids as an extension of area.
- Overview of SAC, our responsibilities, and year-long agenda items
 - Reviewing bylaws
- Current state of Swigert (Shelby Dennis)
 - Supporting student agency (planning more service learning)
- Budget and enrollment
 - 584 ECE ->5th grade (down 14 kids from projected numbers) – there are waitlists for several grades, but not 3rd where a new classroom opened up.
 - Increased student of color population to 35%, 39 students multilingual
- Northeast Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ) update
 - DPS letter declared that the innovation zone was deficient. The zone had an opportunity to respond: up to school and staff to decide whether to stay with zone. Staff will vote whether to stay in the zone. We would remain an innovation zone, but governance structure would change. SAC will need to vote on this decision after staff votes.
 - There will be an information session 9/27 (at October meeting)
 - SAC must vote by consensus.
 - Q/A how would day-to-day activity change?
 - Have not received coaching and guidance from executive director. No operational superintendent is available for input, e.g. covid, early reading, etc.
 - Q/A: has the board and response come back with a game plan for implementing coaching?
 - Yes. Some explanation, DPS is now requiring more structure around holding the executive director
 - Q/A: Budgeting impacts?
 - Swigert contributes 100,000 to the zone vs the district.
 - How might Other schools vote, and how would that impact the zone?
 - Larger schools would have a larger impact (e.g. McAuliffe, Northfield)
 - Timeline: November 1st is when a change would take effect.
 - What training would be available from the district for staff/school leadership (Vs from the zone)
 - What have been the benefits?
 - Coaching, going into classrooms and giving feedback, being more connected with other area elementary schools. Some finances have been better.
 - Staff might not know what benefits have been from the arrangement.
 - We might more flexibility
 - Staff sharing (e.g. Ms. B) with Montclare could continue whether we are in our out of zone
 - Summary: there will be a presentation on Monday for staff. The next SAC meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday in October, we will have more information then.
 - Would be helpful at this meeting to have pros/cons from leadership perspective, and pros/cons from teacher perspective.