

Mountain Vista High School

School Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

MVHS Library Conference Room

N	Dixon Cravens	X	Alan Long	X	Paa Adu
X	Margi Froechtenigt	N	Nicole Merschel	X	Charis Beth Swartley
X	Mike Weaver	X	Schehera McKasson	X	Hanne Schauer
X	Curt Coffman	X	Nicole Kowalski		Rob Ceglie
N	Dana White	N	Connie Ingram	X	Angie Driggs
X	Laura Mutton	X	Carolyn Mustin	N	Jeremy Anderson
X	Kirsten Braun				

X indicates attendance

N indicates pre-notification of absence

Welcome and Introductions – Laura Mutton

- We have a new business/community member, Spencer Bowen, who owns Costa Vida in Lone Tree. He will start attending SAC meetings when we return to our standard meeting time on Thursday mornings in March.
- Charis Swartley was reintroduced to newly elected members. Charis is the junior class student representative to the SAC. Charis is very active in theatre, choir, and community service.

Principal's Report – Mike Weaver

- **Celebrations and Successes; Announcements**
 - The Vista Journalism group recently attended a national conference in Boston, and received the "Pacemaker Award," which is the highest honor by the NHPA for the Eagle Eye news magazine. In addition, four students received excellent and superior ratings. The group was recently honored at a BOE meeting.
 - The Boys Varsity Cross-Country team, who are the 5A State Champs, will be honored at the next BOE meeting. The boys also placed 3rd in the Western Regionals, which were held in Arizona.
 - The Poms team just won the 5A State Championship in the Hip Hop category, and the Cheer team was the State Runner-up in the 5A Coed category. Both groups will go to Nationals in January and February.
 - The Choir recently performed in a holiday celebration with other schools and the Performing Arts Academy. In addition, there are several upcoming performances for the band and orchestra groups.
 - Theatre students recently attended a Thespian Conference, and 6 of our students received a Superior rating.

- Mountain Vista received the John Irwin Award for academic excellence. Mountain Vista and 22 other schools (out of 81 in our district) received this prestigious award.
- Apple Award nominations are being reviewed by a committee of past winners and staff representatives, and a decision will be made before December 18th.
- Finals start next week and students will be on a special exam schedule.

UIP Update – Mike Weaver

- Our UIP was completed and turned in.
- The DAC will now review all UIPs to make sure that specific criteria have been met.
- Our UIP focuses on improving achievement for students with disabilities.
- The UIP will be presented to the staff in January, along with an action plan.

Budgeting Priorities – Mike Weaver and Laura Mutton

- We need to give a list of our priorities for the District's budget to the DAC by January.
- At our February SAC meeting, we will discuss the site-based budget.
- It is projected that the state will provide an additional \$215 per pupil.
- Mountain Vista does have carryover funds, but they are for one-time use items only. They can't be used for FTE.
- In considering budget priorities, two areas of focus are always to limit core class sizes to less than 30 students, and to continue offering as many class options to students as possible. It is also our goal to eventually move back to the 5 of 7 schedule, which will require additional staffing. With these goals in mind, our priorities are as follows:
 1. Staffing and Teacher Compensation

Provide additional staffing to departments that will have growth and large class sizes (core classes). This area also includes funding special ed options, and staff to handle the targeted pullouts for the freshman seminar. We also want to continue funding an extra security guard, but the hope is that the district will cover this cost next year.
 2. Increase teacher compensation to cover a cost of living increase. Increases of benefit costs have decreased new paychecks. Would like to see a continual cost of PERA and benefits (I need to check with Mike on this for clarification to determine if he is saying that the District is covering the employee's portion of PERA at this time.)

The following department and instructional needs are of much less of a priority:

3. Additional Technology
 4. Professional Development for Staff – additional internal development
 5. Capital Needs – Our building is 14 years old, and needs some upgrades. Next summer, the track and turf will be upgraded (this is 7 years overdue). We also need to upgrade the fire alarm system and intercom.
- There has also been a lot of discussion within the district about reverting back to the 5 of 7 schedule for high schools. This would be a much more desirable option for our staff, but at this point the budget does not look like it would allow it. There will be more discussion on this topic as additional information becomes available.
 - Laura Mutton will write up a draft of the recommendations and send them to the SAC members to review before they are due on January 30, 2014.

DAC Update – Hanne Schauer

- Elections for DAC officers were held at the last meeting, and Becky Barnes (a parent from DCHS) was elected DAC Chair.
- The DAC discussed the importance of promoting and offering AP and Concurrent enrollment courses at all high schools. Along with this, they discussed the need to attract, mentor and retain teachers that are qualified to teach these courses.
- The DAC discussed the 6 of 8 versus 5 of 7 schedule, and the fact that two of the high schools are actively trying to go back to the 5 of 7 next year.
- There was a discussion on the Freshman Success Curriculum, and how it is handled at various high schools. Some schools let students opt out of the program, but Mountain Vista does not. Mr. Weaver is looking into the possibility of giving students a partial elective (.25) credit for successful completion of the course.
- The district will have a new website up in January. Schools will have the ability to develop their websites using the same platform, which will allow better sharing of information.
- The DAC Winter Forum will be held in February.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Mustin.

Future Meetings:

SAC meetings will usually be held on the second Thursday of every month. However, due to a previously scheduled event, the next SAC meeting will be on Wednesday, February 12th, 2013 in the library conference room.

DAC Meetings (held in Board Room, 620 Wilcox Street Castle Rock, 6:30-8:30pm):

DAC Rep must attend; all SAC members encouraged to attend.

- January 14, 2014
- February 11, 2014
- March 11, 2014