

Mountain Vista High School
School Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2014
MVHS Library Conference Room

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

X indicates attendance

N indicates pre-notification of absence

Welcome and Introductions – Laura Mutton

- February Meeting Minutes were approved with minor revisions

Principal’s Report – Mike Weaver

- **Celebrations and Successes**
 - Spring Choir performance on March 11th was “fantastic”
 - Boys basketball team is in the Final Four and will play Fossil Ridge March 14; Girls basketball team got to the Final Sixteen and had their first 20-win season. Poms team will perform Saturday night at the Coors Events Center regardless of outcome.
 - Dylan Formby got to the State Wrestling finals before losing his match
 - Girls soccer team is starting the year ranked No. 1 in the State
 - District Apple Award winners were honored at the celebration on March 1st. Mark Newton was the Secondary Teacher of the Year and Pete Mazulla was the Classified Employee of the Year. There were two other winners from our Feeder.
 - The Technology Student Association won the State Championship. DECA and Speech teams both did very well at State and Regional competitions. Vista will have a Mock Debate team at the March 14th State competition. DECA is sending 13 team members to National competition.
 - Vista had sixteen National Merit semi-finalists and four finalists.
 - Paa Adu was awarded a National Merit Recommendation for minority students. He will attend Stanford University.

- Overall there have been a great several months of achievement proving again that Vista is a truly comprehensive high school.

UIP Update – Mike Weaver

- Final draft of UIP is done and document has been turned in. It has not changed since the SAC reviewed it the December meeting. Much of the final data will come from TCAP results – June at the earliest.

2014-2015 Site Based Budget – Mike Weaver

- District determined that total per pupil amount would be \$3,395. Based on our total enrollment of 2,155 this is \$7,316,225. Last year's amounts were \$3,116 per pupil and total enrollment of 2,058.
- Discretionary allocations totaled \$1,284,563 and non-discretionary allocations were \$1,667,418. There was some confusion from the SAC about discretionary vs. non-discretionary but essentially discretionary is Principals, Assistant Principals, Counselors, Athletic Director, etc. and non-discretionary is mandated (SPED, Close the Gap, ESL, campus security, career tech teachers, custodians, etc.).
- Adding the per pupil allocation and discretionary and non-discretionary allocations gives a total allocation amount of \$10,397,506.
- The FTE amounts for teachers throughout the District went up by about \$200. The FTE amount is the same for each classification (Administration, Teachers, Classified) regardless of seniority.
- The "transparency sheet" indicates each school's carryover fund amount, and Mountain Vista's amount is \$809,000. For the last four years, schools have been allowed to keep these funds (before that, carryover funds had to be returned to the District). Carryover funds can be used at the school's discretion, with the exception of funding FTE employees since they may not be able to be sustained.
- We intend to use some of our carryover funds for the STEM Lab (approx. \$120,000). Some will also be used for the staff development program (approx. \$20,000), physical upgrades, painting, more storage areas, and soundboards. \$31,000 will be used for a 5th Security Guard, as requested by the SAC.
- With the availability and use of these carryover funds, Mike and his staff developed a proposed budget that used the new FTE amounts and resulted in the following breakdowns:
 - \$9,154,049 for certified staff (124.01 FTE)
 - \$1,025,223 for classified staff (25.07 FTE)
 - \$135,300 and \$96,800 for instructional support.
- Adding these three amounts gives a total site based budget of \$10,411,372 for 2014-2015, resulting in a \$13,866 shortfall from the allocation amount. Mike is not concerned about this shortfall because an anticipated return of \$50 per student after the State budget is finalized this summer (\$107,750 total).

- Mike stated that this proposed budget was built on a 5 of 7 “plus one” schedule assumption, and he explained the process of getting to this point:
 - The two options were the 6 of 8 schedule we have used at Vista the last two years; and the 5 of 7 plus one.
 - The 6 of 8 was implemented to keep core class sizes to 30 or below and meet the State requirement for 360 “seat minutes” per week per student. Due to District budget constraints we couldn’t hire more teachers so we had to go to the 6 of 8. It is unpopular with most of the teachers because they have to teach more classes and is unpopular with many in the parent community because their kids have too much free time. Some of the kids use this free time wisely and some do not.
 - With the large student population at Vista and the increase in per pupil funding, it became feasible to explore hiring more teachers to meet the class size and seat minutes mandates and return to the 5 of 7.
 - Mike met several times with District leadership about his concerns with the 6 of 8 and also the downfalls of the 5 of 7 and being “out on the plank” if Vista returned to the 5 of 7. He interviewed about 40 students and got their feedback. Questions he asked during this process included: Are we meeting our instructional requirements; Do we have the funds to make the change; What are the staff concerns; How do we keep the programs we like; How does a change back to 5 of 7 look to others?
 - A staff vote was taken and 77% chose to go back to the 5 of 7 plus one. There will be a block day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a “zero hour” (from 7:35 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.) on Thursdays (the “plus one”). The zero hour will be for Freshman Success seminar, special interventions, and special classes (jazz ensemble, etc.).
- Angie Diggs asked whether students would have to “re-register” for 2014/2015 classes since they were selecting classes based on the 6 of 8 schedule. Alan Long stated that this change would affect very few students who had selected 8 classes, but the counseling staff would work very closely with those who were affected to ensure the best outcome for each.
- Rock Canyon and Highlands Ranch High School are also now thinking about going back to the 5 of 7 schedule. Dan McMinimee has asked for Vista’s model since other schools are considering the change.
- To staff this change the proposed budget would add eleven total positions, including seven additional teachers. There will be two counselors (including Sandy Teegerstrom’s replacement), 1.5 SPED, 1 Business Tech, 1 Family/Consumer Studies, 1 Math, 2 Science, 1 Social Studies, 0.4 English, and 1.6 Languages FTE’s hired.
- SAC members discussed the pros and cons of returning to the 5 of 7 schedule. Some students liked taking 8 classes, which will still be an option. Scheduling on Fridays will be challenging, and it may be a heavy test day. We didn’t want to lose the momentum of Freshman Seminar, which has been successful, but the zero hour on Thursday will allow it to continue. As stated before, some students built their schedule based on the 6 of 8 model and will be given special attention from the Counseling Dept.
- Curt Coffman moved and Dixon Cravens seconded a vote to accept the proposed budget based on the 5 of 7 plus one schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

Principal Evaluation Recommendations – Laura Mutton

- The SAC Subcommittee to evaluate the LEAD (Leadership Effectiveness through Analysis & Data) met on February 26th. It was a productive meeting and overall

recommendations and questions were summarized for submittal to the District. The recommendations are due to the District on March 31st.

- Schehera McKasson reiterated her concerns with a Highly Effective/Effective/Partially Effective/Ineffective continuum vs. the more familiar A, B, C and D grading system.
- The next question is what the District will do, if anything, with the recommendations they receive.

DAC Report – Laura Mutton

- Laura reported on the March 11th DAC meeting. The main topic was the Site Based Budget. There was discussion about the potential \$50 increase per student from the State budget, but it was unclear whether a proposed 3% salary increase for teachers will happen if the extra \$50 is not available after the State budget is approved. Laura asked about the follow up to the Budget Priorities that the SAC's prepared for presentation to the BOE on February 22nd and believes that the DAC will in fact bring this question to the BOE at their April meeting.
- There was a presentation about a bond election at the March "Unplugged" Board meeting.

Open Forum

- Curt Coffman asked about the availability of thumbnail biographies of the SAC members and was reminded that bios were prepared during the vote for open positions in September.
- Mike Weaver gave kudos to Carolyn Mustin for getting articles about Mountain Vista in the YourHub insert in the DenverPost.
- Hanne Schauer asked why kids are taking TCAP tests the week after the change to Daylight Savings. It was a scheduling issue that couldn't be avoided. Mike stated that only 10-15 kids opted out of TCAP testing.
- Carolyn asked how the counselor case load assignments will be handled with two new counselors (one additional and one replacement).
- Wendy Strait has been talking to the District about the feasibility of hiring a mental health professional.

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dixon Cravens.

Future Meetings:

SAC meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every month. The next SAC meeting will be on April 10, 2014 in the Library Conference Room.

DAC Meetings (held in Board Room, 620 Wilcox Street Castle Rock, 6:30-8:30 p.m.): *DAC Rep must attend; all SAC members encouraged to attend.*

- April 8, 2014
- May 13, 2014
- June 10, 2014

BOE "Unplugged" Meeting (held at Rocky Heights Middle School at 6:00 p.m.)

- May 6, 2014