

Family Advisory Council (FAC) Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023
Administration Building – Room 123C

Representatives present (X):

Sam Davey: (X) Erica Christiansen OPEN	Flynn: Barb Nichols OPEN	Lakeshore: Brooke Hartman (X) Amanda Roy	Locust Lane: (X) Kari Zarecki OPEN	Longfellow: (X) Katie Sideri (X) Alison Rogers	Manz: (X) Andrew Adams Katie Burroughs
Meadowview: Sandy Blomquist (X) Samantha Forehand	Northwoods: (X) Leslie Gorman Nicole Prock	Putnam Heights: (X) Jamie Kampf (X) Rebecca Riek	Robbins: (X) Becca Rouse OPEN	Roosevelt: (X) Shana Schmidt Lyndsay Simmons	Sherman: (X) Al Christian (X) Julia Johnson
DeLong: Shannyn Pinkert (X) Scott Zielski (X) Holli Jacobson	Northstar: (X) Brook Berg (X) Jessica Schinke (X) Kari Zarecki	South: Audrey Andrews Linda Carlson OPEN	Memorial: Julie Dokkestul (X) Maggie Vinopal (X) Lucinda Kemmet OPEN	North: (X) Nicole Everson (X) Rob Geske Shannyn Pinkert (X) Joy Weisner	ECVS: (X) Jennifer Robbins Catalina Rodriguez
McKinley Charter: (X) Susan Kishel OPEN	Montessori Charter: (X) Anna Foiles (X) Juergen Schaupp	Special Education PTO: (X) Nicole Brynelsen (X) Susan Kishel	Hmong PTA: Caitlin Lee OPEN	District Administrator: (X) Michael Johnson	Teacher Rep: Mark Goings

Guests present: Principals Dave Oldenberg and Luke Stordahl
School Board Commissioners present: NONE

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

- I. Superintendent Report.
 - a. Excited about the work being done towards the approved referendum.
 - b. DPI report card is done, needs final approval before disbursal.
 - c. Lull for Finance before prep for 24-25 begins; Board workshop in December.

- II. Attendance 101.
 - a. Pre-pandemic most schools in the green (meaning above 95% attendance rate for the year).
 - b. Post Covid, ECASD has struggled getting schools back in the green.
 - c. High level overview of attendance rate at each school/overall for school level; shared procedures and policies by school level.
 - d. Principal Oldenberg spoke to the difficulties overcoming habitual absences.
 - i. Different circumstances around absences (care taking of younger children, working to help family).
 - ii. Excused absence work can be made up, unexcused cannot.
 - iii. SOAR pilot program (6 teachers) assigns a score that separates behavior from academics, coach students on soft skills, habits of effective students and lifelong learners.
 - iv. Middle and High School have program accountability.
 - v. Attendance determines whether you can participate in sports, band, etc.
 - e. Principal Stordahl addressed elementary school.
 - i. (K-3 learning to read, 3-5 reading to learn).
 - ii. Small change in verbiage: “Nice to see you” vs. “Where were you” helps alleviate fear of returning.
 - iii. Tardies have a lesser impact due to morning meetings.
 - f. Seeking breakdown of the absences (examples: excused absences a % were due to appointments, illness or vacation or unexcused absences a % were skipping, no call in, circumstances).



- III. Different policies and procedures from early education to secondary level education.
 - a. Elementary checks attendance 2x per day (early morning and early afternoon); HS checks every period.
 - b. Absence % is both excused and unexcused.

- IV. Follow up items.
 - a. Skyward notification timing.
 - i. A concern to families for differing reasons (shared parenting, unnecessary for some students).
 - 1. Can this be changed for notification preference and timing?
 - ii. Attendance refresher.
 - 1. Can we send a District email to educate? Parents call to report absence, time consuming for admin staff. Suggested that emailing the school or utilizing the Skyward website/app to report your absence.
 - iii. Can busing times/tracking be implemented? Notifications for a bus running late?

Meeting ended at approximately 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted: Katie Sideri, FAC Chairwoman

Where Knowledge and Inspiration Meet to Create the Future

