

SAC for Bennett Elementary meeting 2/8/21

Held on Teams, 6-7pm MST

Those in attendance:

Amy Smythe, Principal
Angie Noden, Assistant Principal
Wini Hunt - Interventionist
Alissa Vlcek – Parent, Secretary for BCO
Mandy Casteel-Denney – Parent, note taker
Michael Brake- Parent
Teri Mayeda- Parent, co-chair

Quarterly agenda items:

- Whether the school leadership, personnel, and infrastructure are advancing or impeding implementation of the public school's accreditation contract with the BOE (we have been designated by the CDE as being on a "Performance plan" Schools with a Performance Plan are meeting expectations on the majority of performance metrics. This is the highest ranking a school can receive.
- Any safety issues relative to the school's environment
- Any community concerns and input regarding SAC duties and responsibilities

Staff added agenda items:

- PSD budget updates and 21-22 planning
- Budget committee, at Bennett.
- School leadership team

Parent added agenda items:

- How the school is handling quarantine cases, and what is being done to support those families during that time.
 - Began meeting by looking at safety measures put in place for Covid. The question was asked about families in quarantine: are families getting food? All the information about this was sent out in an email awhile ago. The information included that schools could go into quarantine at any time. Some families might have missed this. There are resources available for families when students do have to go into quarantine. Families do receive food through school and programs, could drop off or pick up food, both breakfast and lunch. What about students who are home alone? Not seeing it during quarantining but did see it during remote learning. Teachers are good about knowing what is going on in families. Hasn't

happened more than a few times. Schools do check on kids if they are not showing up, and can do a home visit.

- Update on the Read-a-thon. Final number \$20,575.63. \$16,000 will come back to the school. Last year, only \$12,000. Virtual students signed up as well!! Had a lot of readers, and a lot of time. Placed order for books last week, 357 books. Every kid is getting a book. There were 3,033 raffle entries. This was a huge success. Will be sending out a parent survey to see how they feel it went. Also one for the staff, but not sure what to ask. Some parents want the running stampede, but not enough people to run it. Want to pick a physical one that all will enjoy. Looking forward to feedback.

*First day of school was a disaster for drop off and pick up. Things are going well now, moving quickly. If I need to change from walking to picking up, email the teacher to change it.

*Families that are no longer at Bennett were contacted to see if they needed anything, as per discussed at the last meeting.

Staff added agenda items:

- **PSD budget updates and 21-22 planning:** SAC usually sees the budget before approval. In the past schools received money based on each student, getting more funding for students in special programs. That is the budget and schools decide how it can be used. Twenty two students pay for one full time staff. A budget committee decided; what does every elementary school need to function? They are making a scale, showing what can be thrown out and what is essential. One example; might need 3 interventionists based on numbers, not the one currently. Might need a full time media specialist or WIN interventionist. The school's function is to serve the kids and how to fund those needs. The plan is to give them that amount of money, and allow schools to figure it out. Supposed to get a budget prior to spring break, then make decisions before presenting to SAC. Hope to know how many kids will be attending and how many teachers are needed.
- **Budget committee;** Asking for volunteers from school staff, all areas, to develop the budget. This helps them to see why certain decisions are made, and priorities are chosen. At this time they are doing this at the district level to develop the budget. Some things are funded at district level, other things are just at the school. PSD schools don't pay for custodial or food services. Each teacher costs the same, new or veteran. In discussion positions are talked about, not people. The volunteers come up with 3 possible scenarios to be considered, and then the administration makes the decision. There are non-negotiables. Title 1 schools have more para's, due to federal funding. Have more time for para's in kindergarten. Bennett is on lower end for para's, but has the highest quality para's. We spend money for great training.

- **School leadership team-** Are working on two big issues, meeting twice a month, putting in time as the work is very important. The leadership team is looking at shared values and assessing relations to them. The next step is to get at the root cause of why we are where we are. Then to develop action steps. Benefit to teachers is they become more invested, and if we go after root cause, can have better success. There will be less bandaids and more sustainable change. The other rock is looking at how we respond to student behaviors, the good and the bad. This is what has been done, how do we move forward. School did work on it in the past, but with a different staff. Need a sustainable system to keep it going, with everyone on the same track. Different teachers respond differently to behavior. This is why they are also looking at values. So many things that impact students, how do we support all of our students including the most vulnerable. There is tons of little training here and there, behavior/trauma, trying to bring it all together. This month have district people coming to talk around trauma in their lives. On professional development day we will learn how to use restorative practices at Bennett to help students. Know what our values are, so we can provide a consistent approach. Get feedback that people respond differently to behaviors from parents. Inconsistency does come from office and school. Teachers have different classes, some like it loud, some like it quiet. Get everyone all on the same page. Need the same terminology across all grade levels so that students will understand it. Need to frame it in a way that parents can understand and support it. Everyone is an individual and a part of the team/school. Small things can be different, big things need to be the same.