

**OCSD**

**District Advisory Council (DAC)**

**November 17, 2014**

**Minutes**

**Members present:** *Andy Hotek, Bob Morris, Ethan Farner, Efrain Garcia, De Thostensen, Karen Hartl, Kathy Akers, Dawn Collins, Madonna Bowie, Russ Reiter, Stacy Bandy, Mollie Roach, Mary Cooksley, Lona Brager, Laura Brehm Nik Rule, and Mike Dursky*

**Not Present:** *Laura DeJong, Dave Groet, Mandy Hafner, Zane Jenkins, Beverly Jenkinson, Rusty Raymond, Kim Tighe*

**1. Review Site Visit Report**

- a. The site visit preliminary report provided strengths and recommendations for seven categories: Vision/Mission, Leadership, Collaborative Relationships, Learning Environment, Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, and Monitoring/Accountability.
- b. DAC members asked questions to better understand each category and the items listed under each – ie – “Tool for Improvement”

**2. Update on Vision/Mission wall “Signs”**

- a. Matt Kargol is working on designs for Central Office and the Webster building. Mr. Reiter and Dr. Cooksley met with Mr. Kargol in the fall to talk about cost and projected completion date. Installation goal is fall of 2015

**3. A Review and Discussion of Fall MAP Data**

- a. The mean data was handed out for the last four years of data (Fall only) and small groups first highlighted areas where students performed above the mean.
- b. Then groups found trends in tracking some specific classes. One trend identified was an overwhelming higher than mean scores in Science. The scores do reflect improvement at the Elementary level in Math and Reading levels, keeping in mind the scores were measured by grade not following a class.
- c. A discussion was held about how this data may be used to assist in defining needs of students but also how parents can have access to individual student’s data to follow their progress. Currently, only parents with students with scores that reflect students needing extra support get this information.
- d. It was also discussed from a student perspective that many students don’t take the tests seriously and don’t understand what decisions or changes may come from results of tests.
- e. How to motivate students to do their best on tests seems to be the million dollar question. *Students present were asked to go back and ask their peers how*

*we might better motivate students when taking the assessments. They will report back in December!*

4. The DLT has developed a “**Purpose of Grading**” **communication and implementation plan** to move towards further understanding and acceptance of the philosophy of grading and report cards here in Oskaloosa. The objective is to move from getting a grade to meeting established Learning Targets as review of a student’s proficiency. The statement addresses actions with School board/Parents/Students/Teachers. Dr. Cooksley sought input from parents and students.
5. The **DAC’s assignment** is to do some brainstorming about implementing this plan “Purpose of Grading”. Parents and Students will report back ideas in December.
  - a. One idea already generated is to make short videos and place on the website and on the Facebook page to help promote this shift in grading.

**The next DAC meeting is Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and Kathy Akers will provide a snack.**

Submitted,

Madonna Bowie

Parent rep with DAC