

District Advisory Committee (DAC)
September 27, 2021
Minutes

Community Members in Attendance: Mary Behn, Kelsie Grygelko, Meghan Gutzwiller, Katie Furniss, Jen Pensergera, Amanda Ranweiler, Angela Weber

School Board Members in Attendance: Carol Steffens

Staff Members in Attendance: Jeanette Aanerud, Cassie Akerson, Jonah Barten, Teri Johnson, Corey Lahr, John McDonald

[9.27.21 DAC Presentation](#)

1. Introductions of Committee Members

2. DAC Roles and Group Norms (see slides 3-4 of the [9.27.21 DAC Presentation](#))

3. Committee members use the key questions listed below for monitoring adherence to the [STMA Strategic Roadmap](#).

- Does the information presented correlate with the district's mission, vision, and core values?
- Do any adjustments need to be made in order to more closely adhere to the district's mission, vision, core values, or strategic directions?

4. John McDonald, Jeanette Aanerud, Corey Lahr, K-4 Principals, facilitated a discussion revolving around K-4 Personal & Social Development Grading. (see slides 7-8 of the [9.27.21 DAC Presentation](#))

Parent input centered on the following themes:

- Is using letter grades in third and fourth grade age appropriate and does it foster a growth mindset and mindsets of learning in students? What data or evidence was used to support the decision to utilize letter grades in 3rd and 4th grade?
- Increase the use of formative feedback rather than letter grades on assignments.
- How can the teachers communicate more effectively and frequently regarding a student's personal and social development so parents can help nurture these skills?
- Concern: Parents receive feedback regarding personal and social development on the report card only if the student is experiencing issues in specific areas.

5. Cassie Akerson, Supervisor of Curriculum & Student Programming, presented the district's 2020-2021 STMA's World's Best Workforce Plan [Summary of Results/Goals](#).

Under [Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11](#), school boards are mandated to adopt a long-term comprehensive strategic plan to support and improve teaching and learning. The district's **World's Best Workforce Plan** must address goals and professional development related to the following five areas:

- All students are ready for school
- All third-graders can read at grade level.
- All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
- All students are ready for career and college.

Parent Input:

- How and when do students receive additional support after learning disruption?
- How will MTSS work at the elementary, middle, and high school levels?

6. Jonah Barten, Testing and Assessment Coordinator, presented the district's [2020-2021 STMA Assessment Results Report](#)

Parent Input:

- It is important that kids understand that FAST & MAP tests are adaptive so the questions get harder, but revert back to their achievement level after a few incorrect answers to questions. Some kids experience a type of perfection paralysis when they start to encounter questions beyond their achievement level.
- Is the non-state/federal required testing identifying students that teachers couldn't already identify? Is the time and money spent on non-required testing providing value, especially at the middle school level?

8. The next DAC meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7pm in the Middle School West Media Center.

Parent Requests for Potential Future Agenda Items:

- Overview of how SNAP is used at the high school level.
- Overview of homework requirements at various levels. What peer reviewed research is used? Do we need homework?
- Overview of Trauma-Informed Schools professional development within the district was deferred to another meeting date.