

ThunderRidge High School
School Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2020 4:30pm

The purpose of the SAC is to inform, encourage and provide opportunities for parent and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school's instructional program and quality improvement processes. By definition, the SAC is an advisory body. Final decision-making authority rests with the principal or other person or group receiving the recommendation from the SAC. Any questions or concerns, please email TRHSSac@gmail.com
2020-2021 Meeting Dates: 9/16, 11/4 (via Zoom), 2/3, 4/7; from 5-6:30pm

- Patrick Bull called the meeting to order at 4:33pm.
 - Officers present: Patrick Bull (Chair), Kristen Burkett (Secretary/Recorder)
 - Members present: Nikki Ballow (Principal), Diann Schultz (Teacher Representative), Betty Dungey (PTS Adult Representative/GBBC), John Groom (Community Representative/DAC Liaison), Kathy Boyer, Angela (Angie) Frank, Colleen Meyer, Heather Burkhardt

- Welcome
 - Introductions – Patrick Bull introduced members present
 - Celebrations – Debbey Quintana
 - 6 National Merit Semi Finalists and 2 Commitment Scholars
 - Parent volunteers have done a great job supporting staff and has been very appreciated and uplifting
 - Review of Minutes – Patrick Bull will distribute minutes from the last meeting for review by the group for approval; they are located on the SAC Webpage as well
 - Zoom protocol for meeting – please use Chat for questions during meeting as all faces cannot be seen with the presentation on the screen
 - Organizational Updates
 - Student Government – Nikki shared that this group tried so hard to find events for Homecoming week that were safe; unfortunately due to the Covid quarantine many events had to be cancelled. They will look for an opportunity to recognize Homecoming Royalty in the future. Color Run will go on as planned.
 - DAC – Angie Frank reviewed the agenda from the past DAC meeting for the group as the representative was not available for the meeting.
 - IB Connect – No representative present
 - GBBC – Betty Dungee reported that the city of Highlands Ranch approved the school Marquee and funds are available; installation will begin in December.

- Principal State of the School Address – Nikki Ballow
 - State of TRHS/ Safety – COVID Quarantine: massive Covid focus, multiple hours daily and on weekends doing contact tracing, very intense process. No positive cases as a result of contact at the school. Most important item is to keep students and staff safe so this is the main priority right now. Many students work at Windcrest and we have a duty to protect that part of our community as well.
 - Question about difference in quarantining with new method: prior was approx. 70-100 students vs now 30-35 students quarantined at a time so significantly fewer unless it affects a PE or choir type class. Is drastically cutting the number of students and teachers that have to be quarantined at a time. Unfortunately several more cases since Fall Break.
 - Total cases positive so far this year (as of 11/4/20) is approximately 23.
 - Currently contemplating staying remote the week before Thanksgiving; depends on additional positive cases so decision is pending.
 - Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) – Nikki described that the UIP is a required plan that describes the needs and goals of the school. Key areas: MYP, Parent Engagement, Expanding Tech Ed (CTE program), Continuum of Services for Special Ed. Is updated biannually, goals readopted for this year. To update this year, ideas were gathered from what’s going on in the country, global perspective and District.
 - Focus on: Curriculum review – examples of mirrors and windows throughout curriculum; this year will review curriculum and partnering with feeder schools for current state and opportunities. Will continue with No Place for Hate (NPFH) programming, GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) programming, and a new club developing.
 - CTE Expansion description – construction and welding; then electrical and plumbing programs. Other district high schools are also developing CTE programs and are not duplicated.
 - Question about other programs like nursing, are being cut. Dougco is looking to create more CTE classes that are in-district so that the district doesn’t have to pay other districts for students to attend.
 - SITE Council – teacher input, current scope is not very robust; wanting a teacher governing body to help with teaching/collaboration/decision making. Topics such as how to share best practices within Canvas and create some consistency among other things; allow for more engagement and input to administration. Mid November group will be forming to move forward in this area.

Other stakeholder input groups include:

 - SAC – parents/community perspective
 - Student Council, Lunchroom and Seminar conversations – provide student input
 - Dept Chairs – helps with organization within and between departments
 - BLT – MYP subject liaisons

Questions:

- Is a group or anyone looking at data around grades for how performance is holding up and support to teachers in this area.
 - It is recognized that performance is definitely scattered between high performers and those struggling. Nikki is encouraging teachers to look at data in their classes and modify as needed for better engagement but also allow flexibility. Recognizes need to keep improving this process which is why the expansion of SITE Council is so important.
- How are students being assisted where it's needed but there is not parent oversight. Again, the SITE Council will be working on these types of issues.
- SBB (School Based Budgeting)
 - October Count – Nikki shared that we are short about 80 kids from the original count projection. Can be covered by past carry over budget dollars but it will cut into CTE funding. The state is potentially offering some grace in projections and apply an average; unclear if the District will keep the buffer or if schools will receive the funding. Final decisions have not yet been made.
 - Funding at the District level going forward is changing due to some inequities. Some funding is earmarked (non-discretionary); some funding is discretionary and comes with some flexibility. Some of the definitions within these categories was questionable and is being changed. Overall changes will not impact our TRHS budget in any significant manner.
 - Question about Sterling Ranch development and where those students will attend school. Currently in our feeder but we are not yet seeing an impact on TRHS.
- Open Forum
 - John Groom asked whether there is specifically an amount that's been projected for per pupil funding – Nikki is not sure what the results of the election/funding impacts will have yet on future state decisions.
 - Betty Dungey asked about impact of any school built in Roxborough – Nikki said it would trigger massive district realignments
 - Question about communication with Homecoming events and cancellation last minute with Skate City. Also issues with ticket sales/contact tracing requirements. Nikki shared that some of those communications were not shared clearly when the change happened abruptly. Nikki will share the ticket sales feedback with Student Government for better practices in any future event. Some details have been overlooked inadvertently due to major time invested in Covid contact tracing.
 - Patrick reiterated that there has been some consistent feedback about the lack of communication from Student Government to the community about events. This group is run by students so communication is not always ideal but could be improved.

- Concern expressed about how students might be spending time outside of school and not following health rules and the impact it has within the school and spread. Nikki is trying her best to encourage via email to parents and students however the school has no authority over outside behaviors.

- Patrick Bull thanked the group and all of the dedication by Administration during this challenging time and keeping our school as safe and engaged as possible.
- Next meeting is in February, continue to communicate via Email – TRHSsac@gmail.com
- Patrick Bull adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Burkett, Secretary