

ThunderRidge High School
School Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020 5:00pm

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, 2/3, 4/7; from 5-6:30pm

- Patrick Bull called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.
 - 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), Kathy Boyer, Angela (Angie) Frank, Colleen Meyer, Heather Burkhardt

- Welcome
 - Introductions – Patrick Bull led introduction of current officers and new members
 - Celebrations – Debbie Quintana noted that with limited activities due to the current environment there were fewer than normal celebrations at this time. However, our school community is very proud of these recent events:
 - No Place For Hate program recognition
 - Teacher recognition has been wonderful from community

- Review of SAC Bylaws – Patrick Bull
 - SAC Bylaws – Available under the SAC tab on the TRHS Website
 - Key Points out of the Bylaws (membership, responsibilities, meetings)
 - Key duties are to advise Principal on the preparation of the UIP, responding to District Accountability Committee (DAC) requests & recommend priorities for spending school money
 - Meet at least quarterly to discuss whether the school's performance is moving forward or backward, school safety, and community concerns
 - We do not discuss any issue dealing with specific student(s), staff, or student parent(s)/guardian(s)
 - SAC is made up of the Principal, one teacher, a community representative, a rep from at least one other school committee, and at least three parents or guardians with a student at the school. No more than three voting members can be employed by the district
 - Members are selected for a 2-year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms for a total of 4 years
 - Officers: Chair, vice-chair, secretary/recorder. Offices are elected by vote of the committee
 - DAC liaison is not an officer but is elected by committee

- If you are unable to attend a meeting (in person or electronically), please let the Chair know in advance. Missing three consecutive meetings is grounds for removal. *Patrick plans to propose a change to the bylaws to amend this Article (VII 1.F.b.) to better adhere to the current meeting schedule which is four times a year.*
 - Meeting time/place, agenda, and minutes are available to the public. Meetings are open to the public
 - Meeting dates for the current school year were announced: 9/16, 11/4, 2/3, 4/7; from 5-6:30pm
- Election of Officers – Patrick Bull reviewed the basic roles of each officer and explained that officers must be elected each year.
 - Responsibilities include:
 - Chairperson – sets agenda with principal, runs meetings, runs election of officers at the end of each school year
 - Vice Chair – assists Chair if needed or takes the role of the Chair if he/she cannot fulfill a duty
 - Recorder/Secretary – modifies any document changes, takes minutes for each SAC meeting, publishes meeting minutes for posting on TRHS website
 - DAC Liaison - attends DAC meeting quarterly before SAC and reviews minutes as posted
 - Election of Officers for 2020-2021:
 - Recorder – Patrick Bull made a motion for Kristen Burkett to continue in place, Angie Frank seconded; motion carried
 - Chairperson – Kristen Burkett made a motion for Patrick Bull to continue in place, Betty Dungee seconded, motion carried
 - Vice Chair – Open position; Patrick Bull moved to nominate Colleen Meyer, Kathleen Boyer seconded; motion carried
 - DAC Liaison – Open position; Patrick Bull moved to nominate John Groom, Colleen Meyer seconded, motion carried. Angie Frank and Kathleen Boyer offered to help back up John Groom if needed for meeting attendance.
- Principal State of the School Update – Nikki Ballow
 - Hybrid Learning – Plan was chosen by District. Nikki reported students are doing an amazing job and following compliance rules in the school. The teachers have also done an amazing job trying to engage students in the classroom and during online days. More work to be done to be sure remote days are as rigorous. For Fridays, a couple of formats have been tried and the school is still revising. Teachers are needing some time for collaboration and students need work expectations. Model for the week of 9/16 is to try a teacher sessions on Friday for collaboration on strategies. They will join students during Seminar and Access. The hope is to try this model once a month if it works to allow more student/teacher collaboration on other Fridays with potentially a modified structure and not the required Check In process. The intent is to make it more of an independent work day for students with teacher access and once a month more collaboration for teachers. Will be teacher-

dependent for assignments/content, etc. vs simply taking attendance. Teachers will share expectations for Friday by Wed/Thurs of the week and will be in Canvas for students. Diann shared that she does like the Friday Check Ins to get to know the students better and work on proficiencies but it's very teacher/subject dependent. Kathy mentioned that the various ways CANVAS is being used by teachers is really difficult for the students and more consistency in use would be helpful and the closing 3pm deadlines has been problematic for some. Nikki suggested students advocate for themselves as well with teachers for their specific needs regarding due dates and special circumstances and continue to share with administration. Question from Heather about whether or not full in-person is expected for high school level based on the current elementary school announcement. Nikki reported that this is a trial run with elementary schools and high schools are struggling to maintain the number of students in school without quarantine and does not expect any changes prior to the end of the semester. Question about any tutorial available to help students learn how to take a picture and upload it into CANVAS. Suggested to ask the teacher on Friday for assistance with instructions.

- eLearning – district originally wanted to absorb all of those who chose this option but at the high school level there are so many different levels/needs it was overwhelming. High schools took back all e-learners independently and it is going more smoothly. Using Edgenuity platform with 2 advisors to manage kids and also have a content coach for each subject. Students can log in or email with these instructors for additional help and guidance. Students also have Access participation. For specialty classes such as AP, they have been absorbed into the Hybrid program and participating remotely. Has been challenging but also has seen lots of support and flexibility. Question about participation – 10% (about 190) participating at TRHS. Has not had much impact on budget, just reassignment of fees to appropriate resources. Some fees are waived based on need. Per pupil funding still in tact. Some parents have withdrawn students due to issues with current program which may affect next years funding. Attendance – have to prove to state that students are engaged when at home which is what prompted the online Check In requirement for those days and teacher override if assignments are not turned in. Needed for per-pupil funding requirement and count that happens in October. Districts experiencing suddenly declining enrollment can do some averaging over last few years – see District Board Minutes for details. Currently 70 students under original projection.
- Final Exam Schedule – Nikki Ballow reported the tentative schedule is 4 days, 2 days for each Cohort. Pros – keep calendar the same/transportation/etc. Lunch schedule is problematic. Some schools are splitting Cohorts morning/afternoon, lunch cannot be served and transportation issues with Roxborough. Feedback: 2 full days is much easier from a transportation standpoint.
- Safety/Health Standards – see above; one way hallways, masks, distancing, hand sanitizer. No quarantines to date. Students are doing an amazing job.
- SAT – date set aside next Wednesday (9/23) for testing with proper distancing procedures. Giving teachers autonomy for school work assignments for the rest of

the grades. If seniors do not want to take the SAT, Chris Smith is the school assessment coordinator to opt out.

- Construction
 - Building upgrades – 8 new AC and 8 refurbished units over summer. Trim work, bathroom updates, elevator upgrades. 2 month delay due to Covid, final inspections within this week.
 - Next summer CTE build is scheduled and new mobiles
 - Tent is currently being used for lunch, some outside classwork; option to allow options when weather gets worse

- Open Forum
 - New District Racial Policy update – was suggested to add a subcommittee to discuss equity and show accountability and safe place to address/discuss issues. Ranch View added it as a subcommittee of Culture and Finance Committee. Nikki Ballow has recommended a process to create an organization/club in conjunction with No Place for Hate to accommodate this process. In very early stages but has key students/staff involved in creating it. Input wanting to make sure community and families have opportunity for input. Invitation for SAC to join in on other model/subcommittee, information will be sent out.
 - Question about what each meeting of SAC focuses on. Patrick Bull reported specific topics are addressed each meeting. Question as to whether culture and climate are discussed in SAC; Nikki Ballow reported generally it's more of a report of current status. Some concern for potential teacher burnout. Overall sometimes embedded in UIP rather than a specific agenda item. Suggested to help orient new SAC members on culture and climate that we add it as an agenda item for the next couple of meetings. The GBBC has a donation link to help with teacher appreciation – Grizzly Gratitude on Instagram. Program is also considering adopting a community with less resource to provide a similar program.
 - SAC members and participants expressed gratitude to Nikki Ballow and TRHS staff for all the flexibility and hard work that continues to go into this challenging environment.

- Patrick Bull adjourned the meeting at 6:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Burkett, Secretary