

D'Evelyn School Accountability Committee Meeting

December 13, 2022

FINAL Minutes

**** Meeting held in person and virtual**

Welcome and Introductions. Staff was present online and in person. Vice-principal Dan Wille was present in place of Dr. Bishop.

- Opened meeting at 5:30 pm

Approval of November 2022 Minutes

- Approved

School Update: Vice- Principal's Report – Dan Wille

- The start of winter sports has been a success! The girls' basketball team is in the top 5, currently ranked at #3. Swimming is underway. The cheer team placed #16 at nationals.
- Informational meetings with future families are in progress. 98% of Dennison families surveyed will attend D'Evelyn. January 11 is the final Informational meeting.
- Finals are next week with half days and a noon release. Students are being encouraged and celebrated in the hopes of a successful final's week and end of first semester. We appreciate our staff and families and look forward to some needed down time.
- A topic of discussion has been the new start and end times of the school day starting August 2023. As of now this would be 8:15am to 3:30pm. Work is being done to coordinate bell schedules, lunch schedules and the extra 15min that has been added to the school day. This will be a challenge and require creativity as the sixth grade has doubled in size. A few parents had questions and Vice-principal Dan Wille explained that is change is on a district basis and not a decision solely made by D'Evelyn. D'Evelyn had a short margin of choice and contact teaching must meet district requirements, which will be seven hours and fifteen minutes for all high schools in Jeffco. 8:15am was selected as this gives Dennison parents enough time to drop off their children at 7:45am and make it in time. These times are not final and an effort will be made to ensure that the schedule works with Dennison drop off and considering morning traffic. Sports programs will have to start later to accommodate the changes. These changes were recommended by the Pediatric society.
- Public discussion on the time it takes from Dennison to D'Evelyn. Also, on the benefits of adolescents getting more sleep as sleep deprivation has been linked to depression. That younger children do wake up early naturally. Circadian sleep rhythm was brought up. This change has been part of public conversation for decades.
- The activity bulletin board was discussed, with some opinions on whether a physical or virtual bulletin is better. David Goldstein and his family have volunteered to fund a physical bulletin board as it would be easier to keep up with and organize.

Steering committee update

- There was no one present virtually and no recent updates. David Goldstein spoke about the Improvement Committee and the very successful presentation to the Steering Committee. The Steering committee was very receptive and will look more deeply into the items presented. They thank the feedback, appreciate the metrics and data driven approach, alignment, and will look into areas where improvements might be made. In general, there was an attitude of forward thinking and positivity. State and school outcomes in academics and community feedback in the future will also be presented and go through the Steering Committee. David Goldstein's main question was where we can post the Presentation and Draft and was told that Lisa Bell handles the website so he will look into this.
- Presentation functions: new music theory class has been a success. There is great excitement going forward towards advanced electives.

DEF Update

- \$25,500 was raised for scholarship money.

-The launch of the digital scholarship process for seniors was a success! It is much easier to navigate and includes links and buttons and is seamless and takes less time (Dec 1- Feb 28). There was a presentation on this during seventh period. Vice-principal Dan Wille suggested reaching out directly to senior's parents via direct messenger coming directly from DEF and this was thought to be a great idea.

-DEF is mailing their annual appeal letter for deductible contributions. A new creative approach which includes five buckets (subjects) that can be donated to and that will hopefully make families feel more involved in the process.

-There are still auction items available and if sold would add up to \$8000.

School budget presentation

- This will be scheduled for January. Dr. Bishop is a state expert and will offer the presentation, which will include slides and detailed information. Under state law the school Accountability committee must present quarterly, and advanced state unified improvement plan (UIP). Thus, making recommendations for priorities for spending.
- ICAP, our attendance was great.
- Statuary requirements for composition community REP, we don't have one presently but this would be of benefit. We also don't have PTA/PTO as in our case this would be DEF and Accountability.
- Discussion again on new start and end times as a new parent joined the meeting virtually (please see above). Vice-president restated that the extra fifteen minutes is part of a unified effort from the district so that teaching contact time is the same for all schools, but that this will not add to the work load. The possibility of these 15 min being used to do homework or get a fun break from school day was suggested by a parent. There is hope that the Dennison to D'Evelyn shuttle

could be reinstated, or more buses, but unfortunately there is still a shortage of drivers so not up to D'Evelyn.

- The idea of a brain break for sixth grade students was discussed from a previous meeting but the REP for sixth grade was not present. Teachers are allowing time for snacks and doing mini breaks during the classes and passing periods and things seem to be working well according to students interviewed.

Dennison AC Rep Update:

- New events; opera for 5th and 6th grade, art teacher for 5 and 6th.
- There is a hiring freeze, no new hires. No budget for this and won't know #s for a while.
- Spoke about the different subjects taught at Dennison and how they are applying an approach of more autonomy and responsibility.
- Challenges with obtaining Social Studies text books. There is not a national company that sells them as so many schools are going to online learning.
- Family Partnership Feedback Surveying will be postponed to January as it's a better time of year to focus on this rather than the holidays.
- District Admin. There is a district survey and a survey from each school. For D'Evelyn, they would prefer parents take the D'Evelyn survey as this would help guide the improvement plan. Also benefit for comparative data. It would be beneficial to have both data.
- Dennison doesn't have a rep survey, for students and teachers like TELL.
- Public Discussion: It would be important to resurrect the student reps that communicate with admin on how the school is doing and what is going on in their classes. Students feel a disconnect with admin presently, not with their teachers. There was also public discussion on homework, the amount of it, and some discrepancies on what is assigned, with regards to different teachers teaching the same subject. One idea was an app that would show how much homework students are assigned during the week to avoid one day with no homework and the next with multiple assignments. Or certain days being assigned for certain subjects only and so on.

DAC Rep update: (District Accountability Committee)

- First meeting was successful and Magdalena Arbat-Pennington was asked to be the AAR (articulation area representatives) for an option school as they haven't been able to fill the spot for years. She accepted.
 - Discussed during the meeting which included all schools (except a rep from Lakewood HS):
- DAC members reviewed the fall 2022 academic baseline data for Jeffco Schools and then discuss and provide feedback for the DUIP (District Unified Improvement Plan).

VISION: Our vision is for Jeffco Public Schools to be a thriving district where all students achieve their biggest dreams. MISSION: Our mission is to provide a world-class education that prepares all Jeffco students for bright and successful futures locally and globally.

Ensure the use of high quality instructional materials and practices aligned to research and data.

All students reading on grade level by the beginning of 3rd grade. Every student proficient in math at grades 5 & 8. Every 9th grader is on track with 6 credits or more. Every student graduates with the knowledge and skills needed for post-secondary life.

Ensure access to opportunities that enrich the student experience and strengthen school culture. Access to effective intervention supports and systems.

Ensure digital citizenship, digital equity and sustainable technologies to enable learning. About Acadience. K-3 skills-based reading assessment, administered 3 times per year. Jeffco's Read act assessment. 4 performance levels which are: **Well below benchmark:** 10-20% likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy goals, likely to need intensive support. **Below benchmark:** 40-60% likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy goals, likely to need strategic support. **At Benchmark:** 70%-85% likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy goals, likely to need strategic support. likely to need core support. **Above Benchmark** 90-99% likelihood of achieving subsequent early literacy goals, likely to need more advanced skills in addition to Core Support.

They are seeing a return to normal from pre-covid years to now. Map Assessment. Adaptive reading and math administered 3 times a year. 5 performance levels, high, high average, average, low average and low. They have noticed a disruption due to COVID. But they are starting to see a return to pre-covid results. In the MAP Beginning of year trends the #s show improvement from 2019 in 2022 (lower for 2021 and 2020). Both in reading and Math are better grades for grades 3-5, 6-8 for boys #s in Math almost the same as pre-covid, reading not quite there, 9-10 less so in either.

Slides showing all the comparisons from 2019-2022 are available on the DAC website. What is compared for several grades: Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible (FRL) vs not. Students of color vs White. Male vs Female. IEL (Individualized Education Program IEP vs not IEP. GT vs not GT (Gifted and talented) And ELL English Language Learner vs not ELL.

https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/about/board/district_advisory_committees/dac

Graduation Demonstration: In order to graduate, students must compete 23 credit hours plus demonstrate postsecondary workforce readiness in reading, writing, communicating as well as mathematics (more info). Jeffco 12th graders as of September 2022: 78% met Reading, Writing, & Communicating, 68% met Mathematics, 66% met both areas.

Group discussion: how can DAC support the accountability committees in the affected schools during school closures?

DAC Feedback: Choose a small group:

Elementary reading

Middle level math

High school postsecondary workforce readiness

Our group picked high school post-secondary workforce readiness. Feedback: During lockdown high school students missed a lot of opportunities. Stress and loss of work force or bigger demand in the medical field. Parents are less engaged. HS students couldn't get jobs. Feedback, we need more vocational testing and opportunities much earlier in school. Career fairs, speakers on the different careers, shadowing someone at work. This could help even when getting summer jobs and trying to pick something within their vocation.

Feedback Questions: After the presentation and group discussions, what celebrations do you see?

What are the trends that you see (e.g. test scores, data)?

What specific area do you think the DUIP needs to address (e.g. 3rd grade reading scores, 8th grade math scores)?

What other feedback to you have for the school district and DUIP subcommittee?

Principle hiring committee update

- Next meeting is January 25. The position posting will occur soon, after this it will be open for a month. We can only look within our school district. With the school closures there might be up to 300 unemployed elementary school teachers. Unfortunately, most teachers are not don't have double licensure so could only be employed for 6th grade. It might delay the principle hiring but shouldn't impact it much. We're hoping that we'll find stellar applicants as there will be more applicants throughout the district.

Transportation committee update

- Unfortunately, no additional buses or routes have been added so D'Evelyn will not have buses for now. No advance has been made in the project to create a road to Simms and Nassau. Who owns the land was discussed. We were not able to obtain a traffic light, not even get them to paint a crosswalk.

Improvement Plan committee

- Hoping to kick January off with a meeting, survey, improvement plan and data. The subcommittee will work together with the goal of getting a lot done January through March, have a solid piece of work by April and present in May rather than in the fall of the following year.
- Giving tree was brought up and the concept was explained.

Public Commentary: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

NEXT MEETING: January 10, 2023 @ 5:30-7:00 PM