

CSC Minutes – 11/4/14

Attendees: Nathan Karet, Lisa McGrath, Ana Petersen, Linda Engellhart, Christy Berger, Jolien Hero, Elisa Bowers

Guests: David Greig, James and Celestina Lobato, Dan and Angelina Geon, James Lo??, Kevin Morse, Lynn Roberts, Ami Pickering

New Business

Solar Panel Proposal/Information

Kevin Morse and Linda Engellhart

Jim Faes – Sustainability Director for DPS gave Linda Kevin’s name. Looking into solar options for Denison. Kevin is from the Clean Energy Collective – Community Solar.

How it works – build large utility sized solar array off site. Panels are not on our roof; they are in another location. Arrays are connected directly to utility grid (Xcel). Power is then credited to electric bill. Renewable Energy Certificate - monthly payment of \$0.09 per kwh used goes to customer for 20 years. No maintenance or additional costs for maintenance. Flexibility in amount of coverage – could be 100% of usage but could be as little as 15% depending on our investment (number of panels bought). Continue to pay bill as usual then a credit is given at the bottom of bill – credits above what are used roll over to following month.

Educational component – possible field trips to array, online monitoring applications, online reports.

Proposal- Currently using 315,000kWh of electricity per year at \$0.09 per kWh. Could offset 100% of usage with 788 panels in the community system. Credit rates are \$0.155/kWh which is full payback in 12-13 years. Cost is \$858 per panel (minimum of 4 panels). Estimated cost at full coverage is \$675, 000. Can be financed through Alpine Bank at a rate of 5.25% interest which pushes the payback period off to about 15-16 years.

Linda has directed a question to Jim Faes about where the savings go. She is waiting for a response.

Parent Perception Survey

Katy - Had been tabled from last month. Looking for three big action steps to increase the scores for this year.

Student Engagement – Attendance Rate = Does not meet, Student Satisfaction=Approaching

Parent Engagement – Satisfaction=Does not meet, Survey Response Rate=Approaching

Students report worries about safety in bathrooms and hallways. Teachers do monitor bathrooms consistently. New assemblies and attention has been paid to Grace and Courtesy lately with entire staff. Could there be a small informal poll of students to see how things are going? Can this be part of G/C assemblies? The plan is to give the survey by classroom teachers on Chrome Books.

Parent engagement/satisfaction – Communication is a worry. How can we proactively increase communication? Are there other models we can look at? We have increased communication through Principal Coffees, attendance of principal of PAC meeting, Facebook page, Principal phone calls, website, Friday Folders, emails, a parent website, and a Town Hall meeting. Can teachers also address communication this at conferences? Are parents getting the communications and what is the best way to reach them? Nathan would be happy to look at responses from parents and put the results together.

UIP – place link here

Similar to last year except it is now organized into three general areas:

- 1) Flexibility of Mathematical thinking
- 2) Enhance student achievement through increased collaborative opportunities
- 3) Provide whole-child support to our minority students within the “gap” group

The document has been uploaded. It has not been seen or approved by supervisors. When does the CSC need to approve the document? Katy will get feedback on that asap.

Update and Format for Town Hall on 11/18

- Hopes and Fears needed for Bill De La Cruz
- I hope that our responses are clearly communicated to the
- Hope that it is a 2 way dialog – open, calm, both sides talk and listen
- Hope that it is not the “Katy Show” would like other members of the leadership community to be part of the discussion

- Hope that it is a healing evening
- Hope that there are new families attending, not same families who have been heard before
- Hope that it is a little more structured, people stick to the agenda, no flipping from issue to issue, more organized
- Hope that it is interactive with positive ideas
- Hope that it is seen as a way to move forward not back
- Hope that it will be open to all kinds of ideas that parents would like to discuss
- Hope that we keep in mind our main goal which is the school and the children
- Hope that people leave feeling enfranchised not disenfranchised – that all feel included
- Hope that people come with an open mind – only so many things can be done at one meeting
- Hope that we come out with clear next steps
- Fear that this may not accomplish what we hope and that we will be back to the beginning
- Fear that the two topics we have on the agenda are the only ones discussed
- Fear – causes division, conflict

CSC Ongoing Business

Safety – has been discussed already tonight

Katy has been invited to join a national conversation about Montessori in Public Schools. I am out of the building today because I am at an invitation only meeting of public Montessori leaders— this weekend has been very exciting and talking about Montessori assessment and advocacy with Steve Hughes, David Kahn, Tim Seldin, the heads of AMI and AMS and the directors of National Montessori in the Public Sector in an intimate setting that includes only 15 Montessori school leaders is invigorating. They have been excited to hear about the direction the Montessori schools within DPS are heading. It is also helpful to know that we are not alone in this work. They spent all day talking with major Montessori leaders. Just received notification that AMS will no longer accredit schools which do not have multi-age classrooms. Hopes to create a task force of parents, teachers, ect. that will come together to look at the Essential Elements framework and determine where we are as a school and come up with how to reach or maintain that level of excellence in Montessori education. Please keep the communication going about this.

Principal Updates

Extended Learning Time – a commitment was made to families that any extension to the hours would be made clear to parents before School of Choice deadlines. DPS has created the Imaginarium to come up with ideas and work with communication. Katherine Casey is the point person. Katy has asked that she return with a clear decision from Transportation about the extended time. Katy feels that is important to honor the decisions made by the Extended Learning Time committee and the CSC last year about extending the day. If we do not hear about transportation needs by round one (Dec 15?) of School Choice then we will maintain the same hours as this year. There is also a deadline for application for additional funds from the National Center for Time and Learning in December.

PARCC Testing/Montessori Assessments

The main work of SCAN was to create a district wide common assessment. In a nutshell, the Montessorians met on the following dates:

August 11 (8 hours)

August 12 (8 hours)

September 18 (4 hours)

October 9 (4 hours)

At each of these meetings, we had a different leader because our original leader went out on maternity leave. None of them knew what to do with us and all had different ideas of where we should be directing our efforts. We went through portfolios being approved to portfolios not being approved; we went to doing an on-line progressive monitoring system to that not being approved-- it was a frustrating nightmare-- tears were shed (more than once).

Then, on October 20, Jennie, a consultant for the district who had been in charge of SCAN last year and has 2 children who went through Montessori walked in the door. Good news: She's committed to staying with us and making this work for us. Bad news: Coinciding with the arrival of someone who "gets us" was the news that UNLESS we had a test written by the end of that day then the waiver would be revoked and we would be administering interim assessments (more tears were shed). The teacher leaders got to work-- the following compromise was reached:

- --DRA scores will be utilized for the reading assessment for this round only (K-6th)
- -- The writing prompt from the DPS interim assessment will be used (1st-6th)
- --Teacher Leaders would create K-6th grade math assessments

The teacher leaders began the work of creating a math assessment for each grade in 2 1/2 hours. In grade level teams they got to work and the most obvious place to turn in the limited time available was the district interim assessment.

- --The primary was able to pretty quickly come up with a plan that involves a performance task, similar to the district's math interview.
- --The lower elementary also came up with a plan that incorporates questions from the interim modified to include Montessori language and presented on task cards. They finished their work on this on Tuesday during their PD day
- --The upper elementary struggled and begged for extra time. On Thursday, Jennie came to Denison and met with Christy, the Teacher Leader from Sandoval and me. Together we were able to create three (4th, 5th & 6th) 2 question performance tasks. These are exciting options that are far from what we were experiencing with the interims.

Common Formative Assessments (across the DPS Montessori schools) have always been part of the plan when we were writing the waiver. Throughout this process, the Teacher Leaders and administrators have been working to design Common Formative Assessments that balance the district's expectations with our unique Montessori needs.

- --The district expectation is that all Montessori schools administer a common assessment that will measure students' growth towards grade level standards according to Common Core State Standards.
 - --The Montessori schools' goal is to create an assessment that can be taken individually within a window of at least a week, that does not interrupt each student's access to Montessori lessons or choice work and that serves as a tool, for teachers, which informs instruction and their professional learning communities

Reports from Subcommittees and Other Committees

FDM – Fall Festival fun and thank you all for coming

Grandparents Day – only grandparents and special friends, not parents

9:00-9:30 Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:00 Primary Grandparents go to classrooms for watch me work.
Children without visitors will go outside for extra recess.

10:15 – 10:45 Lower Elementary visit (same plan)

11:00-11:30 Upper Elementary (same plan)

Support for Dragon's Blood – Tim Ovesen setting up photo card program as a fundraiser through his company.

Fair Trade Fundraiser – seemed more in line with Montessori – orders are due November 14, delivery expected December 12.

Meetings are now planned for the first Tuesday of every month.

Thanksgiving Feast – November ?, 2 person limit to eat with child.

SLT – Not meeting due to conferences, have been meeting about SLOs

PAC – information about what is happening with Crystal Munoz at Force Elementary and parent education. Some talk about Robo calls being sent in Spanish.

Green – Solar presentation, awaiting responses to questions about presentation, also waiting for presentations about onsite solar

Agenda for December –

Is it possible to get updates from school committees?