

## School Accountability Committee Meeting

Meeting: Monday October 10, 2011

Attendees: Mesa: Josh Baldner, Jacy Bruno, Holly Charles  
Parents: Alison Smits, Marcey Cote, Shelley Hartman

Josh started the meeting stating that he would like to run through a report on progress to date against the goals that had already been set by the staff following their analysis of CSAP results and the subsequent School Improvement Plan.

The review included the following areas:

- Math
- Writing (students needing to catch up)
- Climate

The School Improvement Plan was reviewed. Josh and staff had already filled in the report with reasons why targets weren't reached this year and listing new targets for 2011-2012. Growth scores were noted on page six:

Grade	Subject	'09	'10	'11
4th	Math	55	55	38
	Reading	72	62	51
	Writing	82	70	59
5th	Math	56	43	44
	Reading	51	42	42
	Writing	61	48	43
Overall	Math	55	48	40
	Reading	61	48	46
	Writing	70	57	54

### Math

Many hours have already been spent both internally amongst the staff and with the BVSD math guru to identify weaknesses and goals for the year. As there is talk in the district of moving away from the Investigation Math to yet another curriculum it may be that Mesa decides to move sooner to the new materials. Staff are keen to get consistency in the approach to teaching this core subject.

Josh stated that it would be beneficial for the school to have a Math Night for the parents – enabling the staff to present a clear and concise overview of what the curriculum involved and what each Grade was working towards. Helping us the parents support our children at home both with understanding and homework. It is hoped to have this night before the Winter Break.

It was recommended during the meeting by the parents that as a minimum Grade Level meetings would be a good starting point if the staff felt they were unable to push for the big Math Night for the whole school.

It was also noted that there are a great deal of other resources out there for the staff and parents to use – including some excellent online sites (multiplication.com for one).

## **Reading**

Marcey raised the question about reading. Although not targeted for specific improvements for the SAC Plan to be submitted to BVSD there is an obvious weakness there which should be addressed now.

Josh stated that Karel Boswell and the rest of the literacy team are targeted to work with 4<sup>th</sup> Grade this year which is a new step. Facilitated by the additional resources that have come in through ICAN. During the rotation that 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has twice a week, there will be a dedicated time for reading during the Science, Social Studies etc. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade with Jan Brinker are focusing on technical reader skills preparing them for the move to Middle School – finding and studying resources, identifying salient points as part of Integrated Studies.

The question was raised by both Marcey and Shelley – how can we ensure that the other Grades do not get overlooked in the progress and changes being made – for instance 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade.

Josh stated that the DRAT school for this year's current 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is higher than the norm.

The teachers did analyze the CSAP's, however, it was hard to pinpoint any one specific area for improvement.

Alison raised the question on how the changeover to the new standard test next year – TCAP would affect the results and thus the

comparisons and growth scores. Josh stated that all schools have been assured by the District that the new test, although it has some minor changes, is comparable and thus the grading and Growth Scores should be valid next year and usable for comparison purposes.

## **Writing**

The staff again spent a time analyzing the results from the CSAPs. The sub-content analysis highlighted that for the partially proficient, paragraphing was a distinct weakness. Focus has already been placed on this area – both in ongoing classroom activities and the Fall Writing Sample.

Marcey asked the question if anyone at the school had thought about using “Thinking Maps” to help the children put structure into their writing and other aspects that needed to be improved. Visualization for many children is a great means of learning. Josh stated that as yet this was one area that hadn’t been considered.

## **Climate**

Two questions from previous years surveys have been identified as a key to improvement.

Question 19 – I have not been bullied – which saw a substantial positive rise of children stating that they had not been bullied to 65% in 2010/2011 school year.

Question 28 – I have not heard students threaten to hurt someone/take something saw a positive increase of children not hearing this to 51% in school year 2010/2011.

Staff are keen to re-emphasize the bully-proofing curriculum. It was stated that the climate survey will be undertaken this month too.

Josh liked the idea of another Coffee with the Principal to address the topic of bullying as well as following up for the children in their classroom community sessions. The staff has decided to be less leading in the survey asking more open questions. They need to follow up with the victims – equally if not more important that the

consequences for the perpetrator. Documentation of the issues is equally important. Communication internally is key to resolving the issues in a timely fashion.

Helping improve the climate in the school is key. To that end Deb Price has been working with the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders on Peer Mediation. Helping them to work towards resolving a great deal of their own peer to peer conflict without the need of staff intervention. It was then decided to get the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders to work with the 1<sup>st</sup> Graders at recess. Putting into practice skills that they were learning.

Alison asked if it would be possible to roll this out to the rest of the school – excellent way of re-stating acceptable behavior. She also suggested perhaps another method would be to look at a hall monitor/prefect solution.

Josh said that the staff would review how the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade interaction was going in the next few weeks.

At that point Alison, Jacy and Holly had to leave for prior commitments. There was some additional discussion around academics.

There is still plenty of discussion to be had. Marcey plans to give the SAC report to PTO on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Next meeting: as yet no date set.