

School Accountability Committee – Platt Middle School – January 11, 2012
Time – 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Facilitator – Dr. Kevin Gates – Principal

Attendees:

Jane Smolens (Platt SAC Chair), Janine Dunn (Platt PTO President), Sherry Sommer (Parent) Dawn Suitts (Platt Counselor), Natalie Portman- Marsh (Platt DAC Rep).

Topic: Open Forum/Question and Answer

Our meeting began with a DAC report from Natalie Portman – Marsh who is the Platt DAC Representative. She shared information about a recent DAC survey regarding parent involvement on DAC and related committees. She also talked about her experience on the DAC Budget Committee and how she is learning about the complexities of the BVSD budget. DAC is continuing to identify district goals related to equity and achievement; determining the root causes in areas that need improvement. DAC tries to align the district goals with various funding strategies. Platt continues to align itself with DAC goals.

The rest of the meeting was an informal question/answer format.

Topics Included:

- 1) New Committee Members Needed: Platt PTO needs to work on getting new members involved on DAC/SAC/DPC for next year since our current committee members are all “graduating.”
- 2) Composition of SAC Committee: Our SAC Committee strives to increase its membership and participation.
- 3) Upcoming Events/Opportunities include “Reading to End Racism” in February and an Empowerment Group for girls through the YMCA.
- 4) Heat: One parent expressed concern about the classroom temperature. Her son mentioned that the classrooms are very warm and concentration is difficult. A discussion ensued about such a large building is heated and the challenges in maintaining a consistent temperature. There is centralized control from the District in attempts to maintain efficiency which sometimes contributes to the challenge.
- 5) Counseling Interns and Student Teachers: How are interns/student teachers chosen, placed, and monitored throughout the year? We talked about the effect of student teachers in the classroom – the benefits and challenges. CU has a close relationship with Platt’s in terms of student teacher placement and often prospective student teachers are turned away because of our limited capacity.
- 6) Block Schedule: We had a discussion on how the new block schedule is going. Most feedback has been positive – it has been going well for faculty as well as students. Dr. Gates mentioned research related to the block schedule and how this is the most effective teaching model. How do the teachers break up this longer time period? How does a subject area like Math handle the longer time block? What new teaching strategies are in place? Different teachers utilize the time in

different ways. While a decision has not yet been made, it is likely that the block schedule will continue next year.

- 7) Late Start: What has been the feedback? How has this time been utilized? Dr. Gates said she has not received any negative feedback related to late start. The bus schedule continues to be the same and there is free coverage from the YMCA. Late start is a BVSD decision that intends to include all schools in the district. This will continue next year. The time has been well utilized by faculty including Staff and Department Meetings, RTI Meetings (Response to Intervention), Kid Talk, Team Time. Dr. Gates emphasized how invaluable this extra time has been and how it follows a true “Middle Level Philosophy.” We learned that Dr. Gates is the only Middle School Principal in the BVSD district who heads Platt’s RTI Committee. We talked about the implications of this and how this contributes to Platt’s excellent standing within BVSD.