

SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC)
October 29, 2013
District/County Office Room #4, Loyalton, CA
(Poly-com to Downieville School)
3:30pm
Meeting Notes

Present:

Merrill M. Grant, Ed.D, Superintendent
Marla Stock, Site Administrator, Loyalton Jr/Sr High School
Marlene Mongolo, SELPA Director
Derek Cooper, Site Administrator, Loyalton Elementary and
Downieville School, via poly-com Downieville School
Barbara Jaquez, Certificated Employee
Pat Doyle, Co-President, Sierra-Plumas Teachers' Association
Megan Meschery, Certificated Employee
Claire Schumacher, Certificated Employee
Augustine Corcoran, Certificated Employee
Blaine Donnelly, Director Technology
Laraine Sei, Confidential Employee
Allen Wright, Board Trustee
Tim Driscoll, Board Trustee
Steve Folsom, Parent, via poly-com Downieville School
Jeanne Miller, Parent
Rose Asquith, Business Manager
Sue Roberts, Personnel Technician

Absent: Mike Hale, President, Sierra-Plumas Classified Employees' Association

Meeting commenced at 3:30pm

Purpose and Protocols of Meeting

Dr. Grant, Superintendent, opened the meeting. He expressed the importance of the DAC and desired that it would be a productive experience. Dr. Grant encouraged all persons in attendance to encourage others to participate. The meeting minutes would be emailed to attendees and all staff.

Introduction of DAC Membership

An Introduction was made of each person in attendance from both the Loyalton and Downieville locations.

Representative Leadership

Dr. Grant stated that the DAC committee represented a diverse group of parents, school staff, administrators, business office and community members; many persons wearing several hats. He encouraged the participants to keep a broad perspective of the issues and items open for discussion. Information discussed should be shared throughout the organization and greater school community for increased communication.

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Goals for 2013-2014 as Developed by the Superintendent for Governing Board

“Goals and Areas of Emphasis for 2013/2014 School Year” was distributed. Each item was read by an attendee and brief discussion followed. Dr. Grant remarked that the goals and areas of emphasis encompassed his perspective on the current operations and culture of the district. The goals provided emphasis on the professional and supportive environment, fiscal stability, community outreach and educational programs. Discussion ensued on how the Sierra School Foundation interfaces with the schools, the relationship with the local media (newspapers) and the networking with various local agencies.

Budget-Scenario: Multi-Year Projection

A handout was distributed. Dr. Grant clarified that the “1% Salary Increase Projections” was developed as a scenario for DAC meeting purposes, only, and stated that current employee proposals for salary increases are in the process of negotiations. Rose provided a brief explanation of the handout indicative that revenues and expenditures reflect a considerable decrease in ending fund balances projected through 2016. Discussion ensued on the \$1.7 Loyalton High roof project, Secure Rural School funding, Sierra County Office of Education budget projections, deficit spending and California’s Local Control Funding. Dr. Grant stated that uncertain revenues from the state and federal government and “structural deficit” of the district will continue to be a major focus. He stated that the district’s financial stability will be in “uncomfortable territory” based on current projections. Dr. Grant suggested areas of savings: transportation, shifting expenditures/programs to SCOE, cafeteria and personnel reductions.

Technology Conversation

Dr. Grant recommended creating a task force to concentrate on the current and future significant technological upgrades in the district. “Smarter Balance” instruments, mobile devices and technology in the classroom improvements were mentioned. Mr. Cooper would lead the task force of school site tech coordinators, Blaine, Rose, Megan, a Governing Board trustee and a Loyalton Elementary staff member.

Professional Development

Dr. Grant explained that he would seek a creative approach to professional development with collaboration and feedback from school staff providing a more productive direction. Discussion included collaboration in core subjects, “AR Math”, break-out sessions for teachers, participation with other school districts, the development of self-directed goals and objectives, creating a process of non-evaluative and non-judgmental assessment, PLC’s, and summer sessions. Dr. Grant stated that he would address PLC’s and future staff development options with the leadership team.

Student Support

Discussion ensued on programs that would support and promote student growth. Consider support for “Peace Mediators”, behavior management, before and after school programs, homework clubs, intervention, reading support, financial support and on-going training for staff to implement and maintain these programs.

Facilities

Dr. Grant explained that he had inspected the school site with the plant maintenance personnel. Projects to improve the aesthetic appeal of the sites are being addressed. Landscaping, replacing windows, paint, middle field track oval, LHS asphalt and other critical projects are being targeted. Mentioned was made that the LHS locker rooms need repair.

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Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Dr. Grant stated that single county districts like S-PJUSD will send the LCAP document to a contiguous county for approval. [The LCAP will address how the school district and the county office will develop a decision making process to manage the expenditure of funds].

Sierra Schools Foundation

Megan stated that teachers are currently looking at technology grants. Future support for common core curriculum may be available through the foundation. A fundraiser is planned for November.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2013, at 3:30PM, in the District/County Office, Room #4.

Adjourn 5:00pm

Submitted by Sue Roberts

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