

District Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2015 - Mountain View Elementary School

Present: William Banning, Carol Boyan-Held, Rhiannon Parisse, Ana Huynh, Karen Van Gool, Melissa Fitch, Carin Ezal, Sandra Edgar, Susan Zink, Jil Ronkainen, Judy Blue, Laura Zizumbo, Melissa Renda, Peggy Reagan, Amy Marston, Drew McKenna, Stephanie Denier, Ned Schoenwetter

Meeting began at 9:20 a.m.

I. January meeting minutes reviewed and submitted for approval

- Motion to approve made by Jil Ronkainen
- Motion seconded by Karen Van Gool
- All present were in favor of approving January Meeting Minutes as submitted

II. District Strategy and how it fits in LCAP - Bill Banning

Reviewed meeting agenda; requested that DAC representatives bring back feedback on three topics to March meeting:

1. Summer learning program
2. Intervention
3. RTI (Response to Intervention) now morphed into MTSS

III. Mountain View School Update - Ned Schoenwetter, Principal Mountain View

Earlier this school year, Mountain View students opened a time capsule buried in 1987 that included fun pictures from 1967, 1977, 1987. Kids wrote about 80s culture and included a mix tape. Ned invited people to look through the time capsule contents.

School population

- 339 kids at Mountain View this year
- 66% white; 18 hispanic, 7 asian, other
- Special Ed programs: Special day class – handicapped (includes kids from all schools that are eligible)
 - Included in general ed classrooms; included in big buddy program; daily living skills are different
 - Grouped into K-1st, 2nd-4th class, 4th-6th classes
 - Benefit of K – 6 special needs together with general population allows for good communication and cross-pollination between staff and children.

Q: Do we have a representative from special needs parent or autism group represented on DAC?

A: Each school determines representation; Melissa Fitch is involved

Mountain View Technology Use

- 10 iPads per pod (Each grade shares a pod)
- 5 chrome books in 6th grade (Embury – pilot program)
- 2 laptop carts (mostly upper grades, used for research projects, aging. Old MacBooks)
- Apple TVs in all general ed classrooms, multipurpose room
- Funded by PTA money + site council money (District)

- Ned shared a video made by Mountain View 6th graders to the PTA to make a request to purchase more Chromebooks for the school.
- Two students are scribes each week; they summarize weekly learning in google docs for sharing, roll up and publish to parents through ParentSquare.

Other programs:

- Mountain View Cougar mentor program: parent volunteers read with kids who need extra reading support (as identified by teachers)
- Peer mediation program: teaches kids to mediate conflicts on the playground
Mediation specialist sometimes walks around recess for an hour and talks with kids.
School pays for a sub so teacher can train kids on mediation technique. ~30 kids get to meet for half a day; get training on how to mediate conflict. A checklist is used to help mediate conflicts.
- Storyteller in residence works with 4th and 5th graders (Michael Katz). Helps with storytelling skills (an important skill to support Common Core language arts/writing)
- Story Pirates – improv group out of LA. PTA is funding a school assembly featuring Story Pirates plus the group is working with class on improv. Cultural activities committee (parent volunteers) works on bringing in groups for school assembly to enrich student experience
- Hovercraft Mania – new event this year to teach kids how to build a hovercraft, led by the Higher-level Thinking (HLT) specialist. Will have contest to see who can go the furthest, maze, etc.
Tacking Hovercraft day onto Pancake Breakfast (a PTA fundraiser as part of Party Book)

PTA Fundraising: Mountain View PTA typically alternates doing a Party Book fundraiser one year with a silent or live auction / event the next year. For the 2014-2015 school year, the PTA organized a Party Book. Melissa Renda shared copies of the current Mountain View Party Book with meeting attendees

- Party Book fundraising goal \$15K; actual proceeds expected between \$15K – \$20K.
- Concept: Families and school staff sponsor parties throughout the year, absorb the cost themselves. All party ticket sales go to PTA.
- Benefits of Party Book: Engages more families and kids that otherwise don't tend to participate in auction/expensive fundraising events. Good for broader school participation

IV. Technology Recap - Bill Banning

Technology Update

- Provided an update on technology since collecting feedback from DAC representatives in January. Meeting of principals plus two teachers/lab technicians. Sub-committee of group will define proposed standards.
- Key considerations:
 - 21st century learning; what are we expecting kids to learn/know? How do we integrate creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, [character, civic education]
 - What makes sense from a technology standpoint in classroom.
- Goal is to set a standard for the district: e.g. 1:1 Kid/device while also providing staff enablement so that teachers are ready. What grades would we want to hit the ratio 1:1?
iPads have advantages over Chromebook and vice versa, so need to strike a balance in terms of technology based on learning goals.
- Discussion around need to develop typing skills so that kids are ready to take Smarter Balanced test in 3rd grade. Mountain View: From 1st grade up, each class spends 20-30 minutes a week focused on developing typing skills. Smarter Balanced Assessment is a computer-based test.
- Brandon has chromebook, ipad and desktop 1:1

Overview of Response to Intervention and Instruction (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI)

- RTI model in the past has morphed to MTSS. MTSS takes a more holistic view.
- Screening to assess children relative to grade-level competency, then kids put into tiers based on level of intervention needed. RTI was a response to student needs (especially those that didn't qualify for special ed but weren't meeting/mastering skill level associated with their grade) and has evolved into MTSS. There are academic as well as social/emotional considerations in all tiers. A student success team comprised of the Principal, teacher, specialists, school psychologist and parents meet to review strategies to support. The three tiers:
 - Tier 1 – Core Instruction: ~80% of students fit in this tier; needs met with classroom instruction relevant to their grade level
 - Tier 2 – Group intervention: additional interventions for students with specific deficiencies (e.g. decoding). These children may benefit from time with specialists outside of the classroom
 - Tier 3 – Intensive interventions: Much smaller population that has significant and unique needs (gifted student or behavioral/learning issue – usually more than one grade level behind or ahead)
 - Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) is developed to support that child's academic development
- CA Dept of Education: Instruction, curriculum, assessment. Leadership, capacity, align systems
- Assessment tools include DIBEL test (all grades); OLSAT/COLGAT in 3rd grade (for GATE)
- 3 schools had training last year: Brandon, Isla Vista, La Patera; remaining six schools getting trained this year.
- Working on getting a data management system in place to assess students on a regular basis across all schools

Summer Enrichment Program:

- 5 week intervention program 3 days 6/22-23 = 20 classes – intervention (higher needs) Pilot basis last summer; priority goes to kids struggling at the highest level)
- (4) 2-week enrichment programs (split into 2 teachers) – (gifted; qualification) (last year was not fee-based; this year is TBD)
- 4th & 5th Pilot around STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, Math) Brandon and Kellogg are the schools; busing will be available. Fee based program

Action item:

- Bill / Carol will email Ventura County School MTSS Tier Plan- to DAC group -- complete (Bill mailed on 2/11)

Homework for DAC representatives in advance of March DAC Meeting:

- How is intervention managed at your school?
- What is your site's awareness of the 3 tiers of intervention?
- How do kids get into an intervention program? What intervention programs are there?
- Summer enrichment strategies

Meeting ended 11:30 a.m.

[END]