

# Coal Creek Accountability Team

November 14, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sara Remington, Brian Munoz, Judy Walden, Katie French, John Clasby, Sheridan Budin, Ann Bruinsma, Carie Whalen, Hannah Jones, Wendy Buffer, Becky Swanstrom

Next Meeting: December 19, 2019 at 7am

## Agenda:

- FTE Allocations
- BVSD Class Sizes
- Discretionary budgets

**ACTION:** Sheridan and Carie to attend the Open Enrollment meeting to welcome prospective parents.

**ACTION:** John to share with the DAC concerns from CCE regarding class sizes and the dyslexia screener pilot.

**ACTION:** Ann to coordinate updating the website with additional meetings.

**ACTION:** Carie to work with the PTA to improve new family comfort and volunteering, and workroom needs.

**ACTION:** Judy to identify ways to recruit retired individuals as volunteers at CCE.

Today we will discuss how the district allocates budgets, full time employees and determines class sizes at schools.

The elementary level budget is cut and dry; the district has strict guidelines which we follow. Full Time Employees (FTEs) are determined based on pupil head count. There is a small amount of discretionary budget, which is utilized quickly on toilet paper, paper towels, etc. Schools with a large percentage of free-and-reduced lunch students receive additional budgetary support.

Coal Creek Elementary has 392 students this year. This year's pupil count window was on a Jewish holiday, so that affected our numbers. We need at least 350 students to have a full time librarian and counselor. Custodian is determined by square footage. Paras are 3/100 per

student. School discretionary funds are weighted based on Free and Reduced Lunch, English Language Learners, and Special Education numbers.

## Class Sizes

The BVSD class size formula is a base ratio of 1 to 24.5 students with accommodations for individual grade levels.

- Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade, maximum of 26 students
- 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grade: maximum of 29 students
- 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade: maximum of 31 students
- There is a history in BVSD of a previous superintendent shifting small class sizes in order to raise teacher salaries. It is know that class sizes need to be revisited at a BVSD policy level.
- Many years ago, CCE had classes as large as 36 students. Today's class sizes are fantastic in comparison. Kindergarten 24, 26, First grade 23, 24, 25, Second grade 22, 25, Third grade 25, 22, 25, Fourth grade 24, 25, 24, Fifth grade 26, 24, 25. Ideally, teachers would like 22 students per class.
- We are nervous to see the trend of only two classes of students coming into kindergarten at CCE. If we don't attract more students to our school, we will become a 2 round school and lose some amazing teachers. How do we attract more students?

## Full Time Employees

- During spring break we learn the FTE allotment for the following year. At that time, the administration determines who to let-go (based on probation or tenure) or who can be hired.
- The district gives schools the freedom to select their FTE candidates based on qualifications rather than cost. An FTE is allocated, not a budgeted funding amount. This is appreciated.
- We appreciate that the district does not change the FTE calculations mid-year. If CCE drops in enrollment after the school year has started, the district will not make us reduce FTE during the year.

## Open Enrollment

- We'd like to promote CCE that we have an amazing school and staff so that we can attract more open enrollment.
- How can CCAT and PTA help with open enrollments? Brian invites CCAT and PTA to speak at the Open Enrollment meeting for parents on Thursday, Nov 21 from 9-10am. Sheridan will speak for CCAT and Carie will speak for PTA.
- Each school determines how many OE seats to make available. The goal is to welcome enough students for 3 rounds of classes per grade, without stretching the limits of the classroom teacher.
- It really helps to have neighborhood kindergarteners register in January, rather than surprising the school in June.
- The preschool will draw in families. However, we do not expect preschool next year; it is possible in the 2021-22 school year.

#### PTA Funding

The PTA recently passed a vote to increase the number of retired teachers providing educational enrichment in our school. The vote raised the funding from 2 retired teachers for 4 hours to 7 retired teachers for 4 hours! Thanks to the PTA. This program helps to reduce class sizes and differentiate students during key learning of the day.

Our goal is to be a high growth, high achievement school. At the same time, we want to maintain the warm, loving, and caring experience that students have at CCE; kids want to go to school!

The whole spectrum of achievement at this school would like more support; Gifted and Talented, struggling students, and the average learner all want more academic support. Our job as CCAT is to show the district how to do this; we can fund different amounts of paras and retired teachers per grade to determine if this makes an impact.

We want to be careful in hiring paras. We don't want them to be tasked with workroom and copier jobs. We want paras to impact the students academically and supportively. Therefore, we will proceed with care in determining need before opening para positions.

Wendy shares that a new kindergarten family heard in the community that CCE doesn't want volunteers in the building. We need change this mentality! Give the new families some love to bring them in and help them to be more involved. Judy suggests that the large retired population of Louisville could be a great source of volunteers at CCE.

Brian requests that the PTA budget be voted in at the beginning of May, rather than April. This would give him time to receive the March 20 FTE allotments and consider budget needs.

## DAC Meeting Information, John

- BVSD has plans to roll out a dyslexia screener pilot to some schools for evaluation. It would be helpful to catch dyslexia at a younger age. Wendy suggests caution; we don't know if a child has dyslexia unless an expensive CAT scan is performed. The screener cannot diagnose. Also, consider if these pilot schools will receive additional support for the students identified.
- BVSD is developing metrics for progress against the 3 year plan. A subcommittee will research more deeply and report to the board at the end of school year.
- There are state wide changes to the metrics with a new metric called "On Track Growth", which tracks whether the student is expected to grow one grade level in the current year. The three metrics will be achievement, growth, and on track growing.
- The district is currently meeting with principals and leadership teams from each school to find out the school needs. The district will choose one item to focus on and improve. If they choose a different need each year, the district expects consistent improvement across the board. The goal is to customize support for each school, but also support all the other schools at the same time. At future CCAT meetings, we will discuss some of Coal Creek's needs.
- Next meeting: December 19 from 7-8am. We are inviting Bill Sutter, the BVSD CFO to help us understand the budget at the district level. Future meetings include January 23 at 7am, February 20 at 7am, March 19 at 7am