

# Coal Creek Accountability Team

October 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sara Remington, Brian Munoz, Susan Courson, Becky Swanstrom, Michele Hibl, Hannah Jones, Jennifer Gurney, Sheridan Budin, Wendy Buffer, John Clasby, Ann Bruinsma, Deborah Snyder, Katie French, Nita Mehta-Chettiar, Alexis Karnauskas

Next Meeting: November 14, 2019 at 2:30pm

## **Agenda:**

- Budgeting: Learn about the school budgeting
  - Holistic budgeting from BVSD learning: how are FTEs allocated?
  - Discuss focus areas from UIP and PTO funds requests
- Student enrollment counts
- School survey review
- UIP Updates
- Misc:
  - Study areas for consideration
  - Open floor for parents

**ACTION:** John Clasby to consolidate budget priorities and submit to the district on behalf of Coal Creek Elementary.

**ACTION:** Sheridan to request funding for academic tutors from PTA.

**ACTION from previous meeting:** Ann to ensure webpage is updated with names of grade level reps and a photo from today's meeting.

Today we will discuss the budget from the District, School, and PTA. Last year's budget surveys led to the full time school counselors at schools, so it is a useful process. Each year, the school accountability committees of each school take a survey about budget priorities. Results are consolidated and submitted to the District Accountability Committee, which

consolidates results and submits to the school board. The school board utilizes this information as they set budgets for the following year.

Today we will look at our shared concerns (results of Coal Creek Accountability Team budget survey), and priorities for our budget. The budget survey was broken out in several categories: Facilities, Student & Family support, Instructional Support Services, Personnel, and Other. We will review and discuss budget priorities for each category, as time allows.

Participation on the survey was 45% parents, 36% teacher, and 18% Staff, without a community member opinion.

## **Facilities**

Grounds and maintenance: There is agreement that this category is the least critical or adequately funded.

Technology: There is agreement that this is moderately critical. Some teachers request Smart boards (which may fall under classroom improvements category). Teachers would like devices to be 1:1; one per student, with spontaneous access. The upper grades use the extra chrome books more than the younger grades. While teachers would not use devices all day long, the spontaneity of being able to use them when you suddenly find a need is helpful instead of needing to schedule for it. Additionally, technology budget could be used to fund subscriptions. BVSD is defunding Raz Kids and other subscriptions, and the teachers would like continued access.

Building Improvements: There is some need, despite the recent bond initiative. We don't have the electrical infrastructure to support more chrome book carts. It is also a problem that teachers cannot use their phones in the building due to no cell service. During a lock down the teachers don't have an ability to communicate. There are rules that funding a cell booster must be done for all carriers, so this can be expensive.

Security: We are in agreement that security is adequately funded. More cameras are being installed soon on perimeter of the building. If there were a need for enhanced security, it would be a Walkie Talkie in each classroom (due to lack of cell service in the building), and funding for background checks/finger printing of parent volunteers. The volunteer program has been slow and difficult in recent years. Note: A parent asked why the fence does not enclose the school property. It is a BVSD policy that the property cannot be completely enclosed for safety reasons. \$0 Laboratory: we are getting a maker kit in the library! At other schools, this is parent funded, but here it will be BVSD funded. Adequately funded.

Transportation: This topic is moderately critical. There is federally funded housing on this side of S Boulder Rd, but no bus. Many of those kids don't make it to school because they don't

have transportation, or come to school late due to walking up the steep hill. Teachers have asked the district for funds and it has not happened.

Classroom Improvements: There is agreement that this is adequately funded. Teachers believe we have a lot of tools in the classroom with new literacy tools and bond money. That said, we have received new tables, but we don't have storage for the rooms. Shelving and storage units would be helpful.

Other: people want smaller class sizes for all comments.

### **Student & Family Support Services**

Academic Tutors: Everyone surveyed agrees that this is highly critical. We certainly need the right academic tutors who know how to teach. It's not just a body. It may cost extra to get the right person in the room. Some kids are testing below grade level but don't get any extra support, and this is a consistent problem and need. The teachers are juggling based on which students have the most need given the limited amount of time that we have. Every grade level uses academic tutors differently. The goal is to have another licensed teacher for a given time period and reduce class size during that time period.

Translation services: N/A We currently get \$19 per year in translation support because we don't have a need for it in our community.

Careers and Technical: This is intended more for high school than elementary. Not needed.

Community resources: This is least critical for our school. Our community assistance needs are adequately met.

Family and School partnerships: We believe this is important but adequately funded. Our PTA does a great job with this.

Health services: We agree this is the least critical but not adequately funded. The district provides us ½ FTE for a health room para. When Liz Beasley is occupied with her other roles, the responsibilities fall on the rest of the front office. When a child gets sick, they need immediate support. If the front office time is diverted, then security is at risk. We are managing, but it is a juggle.

Elective: Adequately funded.

Extra-curriculars: Moderately critical. This is more of a high school conversation. We get 2.75 SSA contract from everything. Choir and battle of the books and DI will take from these funds. It gets tight. We need to maintain or improve.

Mental Health Services: We now have 1.0 counselor and that will not go away. It is a huge support as a resource for a school with no assistant principal. We also have a mental health advocate 1-2 days per week. She's vital for specific kids that need support for an isolated event like a loss in the family or trauma. We have a social worker and psychologist 2 days per week, which is critical. This needs to be maintained. We would only need more if our population increased. For now this is adequately funded. The RISE program comes with funding for all of the needs of those students. \

### **Instructional Support Services**

Professional Development: highly critical

Teacher Planning time: highly critical

Literacy Tools: Highly critical; with the updated literacy program this year, this is likely adequately funded this year.

Science Tools: Moderately critical

Math Tools: Highly critical; we are not getting support from BVSD at this time.

Common Interim Assessments: Least critical

Other

### **Personnel**

School Nurse:

School Counselor:

School Resource Officers:

Instructional Interventionists: Literacy intervention is only ½ FTE funded here. This is a Highly Critical need.

IT Support Staff:

Smaller Class Size: This was voted Highly critical. However, we don't have the facility space for a lot of additional classes. We should add interventionists and academic teachers, but not

more teachers because we don't have space for more classrooms. We should focus on more times of the day where there is differentiation. With enrollment numbers going down, there is no reason to consider mobile classrooms at this time.

Other:

## **Ranking**

The next step for the survey is to rank the categories against each other. As a group, we agree in this ranking:

Personnel: #1

Instructional Support: #2

Student Support Services: #3

Facilities: #4.

Other: #5.

At our next meeting in November, we will discuss the FTE allocation and talk about the overall district budget. The next meeting is November 14 at 2:30pm.

At tomorrow's PTA member meeting, Sheridan will share a letter from the CCAT to the PTA board requesting additional funding for academic tutors.