

# SHS SAC Meeting Notes, June 15, 2021

---

In attendance: Cory Scheffel, Talmage Trujilo, Robin Nejame, Lezlie Burkley, Kate Clark, Stacey Follet, Jodi DeMoss, and Susan Matthews

## Meeting agenda:

- ★ Acquaint Talmage with with the committee as well as member concerns and culture
- ★ Scheffel and Talmage have already been able to meet 4-5 times
- ★ Talmage has read recently all notes from DAC and SAC, which is an advisory to DAC

## SAC Schedule:

- ★ Meeting first Tuesday of every month - required quarterly
  - Will likely need to meet more than quarterly again
- ★ Everyone felt real out of the loop concerning program, budget, and staffing in 2020-2021
- ★ More meetings might be helpful to know about programing

## Budget and SAC Concerns:

- ★ As an administrator some withholding of finance details are intentional as to create a balance between what's too much and what's not enough information
- ★ Necessity for transparency and honesty: like with the budget, state planner notes the plans A, B, and C
  - Examples of best to worst case scenarios
- ★ Last year the money issue was presented at a very late date
  - Without having seen a budget, we were told we were in fiscal exigency
  - Consistent check-ins could really be helpful for that
- ★ Last year: rules of the game kept changing as did "facts"
  - Felt as though some decisions were made in a crisis mode
  - Board gave some executive powers, which might have been taken too far
  - Crisis was self-created and unnecessary: Can the district redefine fiscal exigency?
    - Give more specifics about what necessitates a financial crisis

## Community Engagement:

- ★ Tax payers need to have more of a say about what happens at the school
- ★ Plea for town meetings rather than community meetings where dialogue is not allowed
- ★ Healing is needed: Reinstall trust within community and staff
  - Not likely to pass any bonds or bills
- ★ 1997-2005 significant distrust in district and community
  - Friction founded from:
    - SMS not built well (roofing issue) and disallowed from certain community uses
    - Salary freeze: R-32-J retirees didn't not feel as though they were treated fairly
    - Not a lot of staff support, connected to lack of mill levies or bond passages
  - Board attempted change in 2008:
    - From Wilson to new superintendent
    - 2008-2010 multiple community meetings to really engage (ex: discussed fiscal exigency and 4-day week)
- ★ 2020-2021 meetings with community engagement:
  - Community accused of "character assassination"
  - Different opinions created hostility; however, they are NEEDED
  - Same issues of too much power vested in the superintendent and not enough community engagement:

### **Transparency and engagement with staff and community:**

- ★ Takes time to be able to make these decisions
- ★ Purpose of SAC: well-educated upon the school's status as to make recommendations to DAC
  - Everyone should be able to attend these meetings
    - Where are people allowed to ask questions or participate in SAC?
      - How to bring items to the SAC's attention:
        - First the principal
        - Can be put upon the SAC agenda to be able to introduced and then discussed at length
        - Will create a publically accessible calendar of all meeting dates and agendas

### **Trujillo's Bio:**

- ★ At age 16-17 knew he wanted to be an educator
- ★ Went through to a program mentoring kids
  - Colombiamission work during the drug wars for 2 years
- ★ Experienced with mental health and trauma informed administration
- ★ Rocky Mountain High Adventure Base director (5 years- with a staff of 33)
- ★ Taught in Denver Public Schools, Jeffco, moved Cañon City to teach in Fremont County, since moved to Salida where he's worked in R-32-J
- ★ Still teaching at Horizons 4-5 hours in addition to being the principal
  - Encouraged to leave teaching (though he loves it) to pursue a more administrative role
  - Great team at Horizons
    - Very collaborative environment
- ★ Feels as though COVID has created an adversarial stance among some of the stakeholders
- ★ Seeks to brings down the walls in order to collaborate and understand, not fight
- ★ A bit nervous and hesitant with the new position
  - BUT very excited about the prospects and possibilities

### **Questions or comments:**

- ★ Trujillo is transparent, thoughtful, can listen to different points of view
  - Can be felt heard
- ★ Big priorities for the next year:
  - Last year Blackburn did some to overstep or negate Thompson's role
    - Job description fairly clear for the school or the principalship
    - Has had some conversations already with Blackburn involving new policies or programs
  - Letters: not about not moving just about being blindsided: February versus having community involvement
  - Curious about how things go on the committee
    - Let's have this more transparency with the community and STAFF knowing about these meetings
    - Community communications issue can be the person who makes this public knowledge
      - Can be more accessible in advance
      - District issue - not just SHS SAC
  - Make a calendar first Tuesday of every month (beginning in September), 5:30-6:30 PM, announce, and make this public for everyone (before July 20)
    - Easy to make accessible from IC as well
    - Follow model of DAC
- ★ This year will be a process of learning how SAC dynamics work

### **To discuss September 7, 2021:**

- ★ Financial state of SHS
- ★ Increasing community engagement