



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

**SACPIE Quarterly Meeting - Virtual
November 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Yoni Dobie-Geffen, Jenny Lerner, Angie Frank, Kristine Greer, Mary McNeill, Michelle Zeles-Hahn, Mark Sass, Beth Donahue, Brooke Cote, Kimberly Chatman, Jessica Welch, Chelsey Hall, Nathan Hickman, Kristin Dalton

Absences: Twyla Esquibel, Emily Shore, Jason Taylor

Guests: Darcy Hutchins, Cheryl Cook, April Thompson, Rhonda Solis, Megan Rogers, Liz Wilson, Laura Harney, Ami Prichard, Kate Garvin, Sherrell Lang

Meeting began at 9:00am

9:05 Approval of meeting mins from August 2023 meeting.

Angie motioned to approve and Liz seconded the motion. August SACPIE mins were approved.

9:07 Annual Report

SACPIE is looking for input for the annual report and is asking members to answer the survey via the link provided link supplied to members.

Darcy will share the 2022 annual report with SACPIE as a reminder.

Darcy conducted a poll to determine meeting dates for May and August 2024. The dates were determined as May 7th and August 13th.

9:14am Small Group Introductions

SACPIE members went into small groups for introductions, role on SACPIE and something that motivates you.

9:20am Update from Rhonda Solis – State Board of Education

The State Board of Education has been working on Assessments and the Accreditation system. Rhonda explained the role of the State Board of Education as working with CDE to work on policy related to legislation and serves as a hearing body for charter schools. Rhonda described her passion for the district that she represents and all students.

Liz asked Rhonda the priorities of the Board at this time, Rhonda described the assessment and accountability system as being one of the major topics and priorities. Numerous SACPIE members joined in with participation and testing concerns. SACPIE members also offered support to other members regarding participation successes.

9:30am: Family Resources for Kindergarten Website (Megan Rogers – CDE)

SACPIE members shared their as parents and if they have successfully registered students for school.

Megan shared the role and purpose of the division at CDE; Transitions into and from kindergarten, assessment and instructional planning, learning and development, foundational early literacy, statewide partnering to increase family and community partnerships with schools. This office was created due to trends in questions directly from families and those with students entering the school system. Megan and CDE colleagues noted the resources were geared toward districts and was not fully accessible for families.

The goal of the project that Megan and the team are working on is to connect families with the districts and where they can get the most support. The primary categories of information include: The power of kindergarten, broad overview of kindergarten in Colorado, Kindergarten registration facts, and school partnerships.

SACPIE used breakout groups to discuss their experience and share via a jam board

- What information were you looking for as your child began kindergarten?
- What resources helped you?
- What is most important for families to know about preparing to enter kindergarten, beginning the school year, and getting engaged in their child's school and learning.

SACPIE members returned to large groups to share out some of the key items discussed:

- Supports and engagement for parents/families with children with special needs.
- Identified the need to have family friendly language on navigating systems
- Transparency and support with understanding tuition and associated costs.
- Who to go to with different questions/needs.
- Small and rural communities- how to get information on school options and overall concerns with small systems and the experience and challenges of these systems.
- Each school manages things differently and is not always transparent or communicative causing confusing.

10:10 – 10:20 am Break

10:20 SACPIE Member Share-Out:

- Rhonda Solis shared a recent experience with a representative from Mississippi, who is doing

telehealth appointments in school. They are also doing mental health telehealth appointments. School nurses are also being trained as life coaches to support students with mental health concerns. Mark Sass followed up with the I Matter program which offers free mental health services for students.

- Laura Harney shared on the community school group who is working with numerous agencies on the history of community schools and the aspirational vision for community schools. Laura shared an interest form for those interested in participating in this work.
- Beth Donahue shared on the parent encouraging parent conference which will be meeting in January in Aurora and again in May which will be in Grand Junction. This is a statewide conference for parents to connect and share resources along with speakers who will be joining.
- Jenny Lerner shared the migrant education program and advocating for parents and families to share with the schools regarding content competency regardless of primary language
- Mark Sass shared on the 1241 task force, to include the website for updates, and the required involvement for parents and stakeholder groups. Mark also discussed the recent accountability presentation which reviewed the small correlations in minority, sped, and school performance.
- Yoni shared on the second grant award for a family engagement center. Keystone policy center was the awardee of the second grant and they will continue to work closely with Darcy. The newest team member, Kate Garvin who is on the call today, will be stepping into represent Keystone on SACPIE.
- Yoni also shared on his recent conference in DC in which the **Aspen Group** shared on the two-generation approach. Yoni offered resources and research studies via their website.
<https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-approach/>
- Nathan Hickman shared on the Stronger Connections grant which is focused on the promoting safe and healthy student practices grant funds available. Applications are due 11/15/23.
https://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/stronger_connections_grant
- Laura Harney shared a follow up on a previous SACPIE request regarding social emotional learning curriculum. The team at CDE recommends Second Step. Laura gave the reminder that there are numerous things to consider when implementing a curriculum and the need for support, buy-in and integrity. Kristin followed up with the comment that Greeley is currently using this curriculum and has teachers trained and teaching this with success. Kristin shared that she has found it successful with K-5 but not middle school as they were not connecting to program. Metrics being used to evaluate are the Panorama and youth truth surveys.
- Ami Prichard shared on what PTA has been working on. The annual convention will be held in April in Colorado Springs. Please contact Ami if interested in participating or presenting. PTA is also working with Hunger Free Colorado regarding healthier school meals. PTA is also working with other agencies on electric school buses, community schools, suicide prevention, school discipline, and equity in school discipline and policy, LGBTQ resources in schools.
<https://copta.org>

10:50 FSCP Report (Darcy Hutchins)

- Annual Report in progress – member contributions due by Nov 27th
- Social Media Campaign – for FSCP month #FSCPmonth2023 Keep it going!
 - The Secretary of Education will be using the # in his speech on Friday.
- State Board of Education Home Visits
 - Commissioner Cordova proposed that SBE member participate in home visits to families in November. 5 SBE board members will be participating in these visits and will be able to share their experience.

- SACPIE Reauthorization
 - DORA is recommending that SACPIE be reauthorized. Unclear if this will be with a sunset. Technical language changes are in process with the policy team at CDE.
- Collaborative Cohorts
 - Small groups of districts who opt into work with staff at CDE to systemically and intentionally implement FSCP in their districts.
- Bring your superintendent – Coffee Chat
- FSCP Leadership Think Tank
- New resource for principals – in January there will be a learning cohort that will take place through the year. The applications are opening soon and Darcy will share out the flyer.

11:00 FSCP and Chronic Absenteeism (Cheryl Cook)

Cheryl provided the definition of Chronic Absenteeism: A student absent 10 percent or more of the days enrolled during the school year. All absences are included- unexcused, excused, and suspensions. The rate the percentage of students enrolled who are chronically absent. Chronic Absenteeism is a statewide priority and the current rate statewide is 31%. The rate is even higher for English language learners, those who qualify for free and reduced lunch and homeless youth.

The rate of chronic absenteeism pre-pandemic was 22% and since rose to 35% and now is 31%. Cheryl shared a fact sheet and other resources.

Cheryl outlined the positive conditions for learning: relationships, physical/emotional health, belonging/connection/support, academic challenge and engagement, adult and student well-being and emotional competence.

FSCP as an improvement strategy: Capacity building, actionable data, positive engagement, strategic partnerships, adequate, equitable resources, shared accountability.

Home visits – research from Connecticut. The outcomes consisted of a growth in attendance of 4% rising over time to 7-15% over 6 months. Similar outcomes across demographic groups with the exception of EL, who showed roughly half of the non-EL.

Three playbook focused strategies: Increase awareness, personalize communication, include home visits.

SACPIE members used breakout groups to discuss and make recommendations via a jam board on the following statements regarding chronic absenteeism.

- What ideas do you have that could guide our work in this area
- What practices might we want to elevate
- What steps might we take at the state and local level

11:30 Meeting adjourned