

Teacher Key Communicators
CSAC – 3 East
November 18, 2015 – 4 PM

Dr. Mitchell began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves and thanked them for attending. Katy Urban, Public Information Manager was introduced and asked the teachers to share stories with her.

Updates:

- MGT Study – The facility studies are still being conducted with two community sessions left at South and Southwest. The group has meet with many internal and external stakeholder groups. The information will be compiled and presented to the board in late December or early January. The board will review the plan and start with developing a 5 year capital outlay plan and then a 5 year capital project plans which will be completed by the end of June.
- Blue Ribbon Task Force – The final report is out and can be seen at: <http://blueribbon.sd.gov/> Administrators and the Board recently meet with the Citizen’s Advisory Task Force and discussed the potential recommendations. Representative Sly, Jim Scull and Dave Davis gave the group the report. Jim Scull is an advocate for the educational funding and stated we need to get the community on board. The governor will most likely not address the report in his Budget Address on December 8th but take time to review and will address in his State of the State address in January. Minutes from the Citizen’s Advisory Task Force are attached to these minutes.
- District PLC groups are working to implement the new state standards in social studies and science standards. They are looking at the current course sequence and the potential for new sequencing in both areas. The social studies is looking at the contemporary approach which would take history from our founding fathers to current history. United States History 1, 2, and 3 along with geography and government would be offered. Civics would be incorporated into United States History 1. At this time it is in the preliminary stages of discussion. Both groups will provide an update to the Board at the December 7th Board of Education study Session and the December 14th Regular Meeting.
- Title I buildings are scheduled for their needs assessments through the Leadership and Learning Center. Team members will come to each building and meet with all stakeholders. They also have a survey instrument. The assessment is based upon the 90/90/90 research base. This evidenced-based work is designed to help schools address minority, poverty and disabled students in the classroom.
- The health insurance advisory committee is giving a premium holiday to all staff members that pay insurance benefits. Please see the wording below taken from the agenda item that was approved at the November 9th Board of Education Meeting. An e-mail was distributed to all staff.

On October 26, 2015 the Rapid City Area School District Benefit Committee met and reviewed the financial status of the RCAS District benefits program. Presentation was made by Gallagher Benefits’ service to the Benefits committee and the Board of Education. Based on this information, the Benefits committee is recommending the Board of Education allow a premium holiday for the employee portion only for the month of December 2015. The district insurance benefits are the only ones subject to the premium holiday. This does not include Flex contributions, 403b, United Way or any other deductions.

- Dr. Mitchell encouraged teachers to email their legislators to advocate for education funding. Attending the Crackerbarrels is also another way to get on board and show legislators the need for more dollars for education. Crackerbarrels are held at the South Dakota School of Mines New Classroom Building from 9 to 11 AM. Dates are:

- ✓ January 23, 2016
- ✓ January 30, 2016
- ✓ February 20, 2016
- ✓ March 5, 2016

You are encouraged to follow the House and Senate bills via our website at: www.rcas.org – Administration – Superintendent – 2016 Legislative System. You can click on the bills in the House and Senate individually and see what position the Board takes on them by the “color” coding. By clicking on View Full Bill and expanding the document you can view the entire bill or on the home page will be a synopsis of the bill.

The Rapid City Legislators are listed on this site also. By clicking on the senator or representatives name, it will automatically open up an email and you can write to them. If you are writing about a specific bill, copy the synopsis into the email and further explain your position. If you have questions, please feel free to call Shirley and she can assist you with any questions.

- 2016-2017 School Calendar – Dr. Mitchell is going to form a committee for calendar review. He will take representative from elementary, middle school, high school, community members, and parents to get input. He will put out a survey for feedback on start on last Monday of August calendar and start in September. Items that will be looked at will be Christmas break and other days off. Sioux Falls calendar was put to a vote and many are not happy with the results. Businesses in the area are saying they need students in August but not in June so starting school after Labor Day and getting out in June would not affect them as much as starting in August and out in May. However, students that participate in sports will not be available to work full time in August because teams start practicing then.

Discussion was held about calling school for weather including heat issues. Dr. Mitchell said calls need to be made by 4:30 AM and weather can change during the day so it is a hard call to make. He noted that the last MGT report came back with recommendations to update HVAC systems in the schools that are not currently air conditioned. This will most likely be recommended again.

- The district is currently reviewing policies and procedures in Section E which deal with emergency closings and lockdowns along with other items. The lockdown drills and fire drills will not be announced to staff. It is felt that if they know in advance, the drill is not effective so all will be unannounced. The visitor to school policy has also be revised for the safety and protection of all students and staff. Every building must have a visitor check-in and procedure in place.
- ID's – Dr. Mitchell will visit with principals about ID. Some schools are required to wear all the time while in the building and some are not.
- Dr. Mitchell asked members to check out the SD Hall of Fame website and Champions of Excellence. This program recognizes educational excellence throughout the state. The website is:
http://www.sdhalloffame.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=88

- Discussions will begin on boundaries in the near future. Once the MGT report has been finalized, it will provide numbers in areas and growth. The district does have a grandfather clause that does affect the boundary changes because students currently attending a specific school may choose to utilize the grandfather clause and stay at current school when they have been re-boundary to another school.
- Dr. Mitchell is participating in the steering committee of the Rapid City Cultural committee. The purpose of the group is to create a plan for the entire community. It does address putting arts education back in the schools. Attached to the minutes you will find a summary of the draft plan.
- Survey update – Dr. Mitchell and District attorney appeared before a judge on the issue of student surveys. The decision supported that the district is following the law. The district follows the opt in procedure that only surveys a student if the parent signs a form and returns to the district that their children are allowed to be surveyed.

Any surveys held within the building are to be sent to the principal – who will forward to the Office of the Superintendent.

- Dashboard – the district has put a new link on the website that shows facts/figures on district items. It changes each month with changes in budget/meals/miles and other information listed. Please check it out at: <http://public.rcas.org/administration/Pages/Dashboard.aspx>

Dr. Mitchell thanked the group for attending. He asked that they get topic ideas for future meetings to Shirley (shirley.fletcher@k12.sd.us) to add to future agendas. The questions are **due by noon** the day of the meeting. Anything received after that time will be placed on the next month's agenda. The next meeting is December 16th.

Meeting ended at 5:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Fletcher
Senior Administrative Assistant
Superintendent Office

Attachments:

- ✓ Citizen's Advisory Task Force Minutes
- ✓ RC Cultural Plan Summary