



Northridge Elementary School Accountability Committee

APPROVED at 9/14/2018 Meeting

2018-19 Meeting Dates - We generally meet on the 1st Friday of the month, from 7:30 - 9:00 am in the Northridge Learning Commons (formerly known as the Library)

2018	2019
August 24, 2018	January 11, 2019
September 14, 2018	February 22, 2019
October 26, 2018	March 29, 2019
November 14, 2018 (6:15-7:30 pm with PTA)	April 16, 2019 (6:15-7:30 pm with PTA)
	May 17, 2019

Attending SAC Members

Todd Berguetski, Eric Fritz, Laura Huffman, Vicki McAtee, Katie Lynch, Jill Moses, Sheetal Parsons, Filipina Pate.

Additional Participants

Amanda Schmidt, Laura Allen, Mary Busam, Debbie Edwards, Tim Goodwin, Megan Heydt, Erin Lehnert, Kara Lewis, Erin McConnell, Sara Schulte, Erin Turley, Erin Young, Darien Wilson

Key Questions (for September)

- Should we move the Book Fair to early October (during parent-teacher conferences)?
- Who can parents contact about questions related to MySchoolBucks NRE student fees?
 - Laura Carey or Ashley Smith in the front office
- CMAS-related Questions:
 - Since NRE doesn't know which students are in the reduced/free lunch program, how can our community better support these students in English Language Arts?
 - How can we better support female student interest in STEM subjects in the upper elementary grades?
 - How can we better support Hispanic students in Math?

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- What variables have the greatest impact on student academic performance? Despite larger class sizes, NRE continues to perform better than the average student in the district and the state? [Visible Learning Research](#) Research Paper by John Hattie, Visible Learning.
- If the Bond / Mill Levy Override passes, how will the additional funding be used to address NRE's needs? [Click here to 2018 Master Capital Plan and specific needs for NRE.](#)
- Is there a relationship between DAC and Bright Futures for Douglas County Kids?

Meeting Minutes for 8/24/2018

1. Welcome & Introduction (Jill Moses)

Meeting began at 7:30 am. After introductions from all attendees, Jill reviewed the purpose of the SAC: UIP, the budget, school-specific and district-specific issues. The upcoming agenda posted in the weekly NRE email blast and the NRE website.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to the approve the meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

3. Calendar

Katie asked for parent feedback about hosting monthly SAC meetings, except for December. Parents agreed to the monthly meeting schedule. Also, the NRE Weekly email blast format is now more mobile-friendly. Upcoming calendar items are highlighted at the top of the email blast.

4. Staff report (Ms. Huffman)

- **6th grade** - Classes are taking the [Emergenetics](#) questionnaire and preparing for Outdoor Education (Sept 11-14). Outdoor ed activities will includes stand-up paddleboard, canoeing, biking, team-building.
- **5th/6th Discovery** - Classes are working in three person architectural firms on a House Design unit. Recently a parent came and shared their experiences building a new extension to Ronald McDonald House in nearby Aurora.
- **4th grade** - Students are rotating to a different 4th grade teacher depending on a subject: math, reading, and writing. Science and social studies remain with the homeroom teacher.

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- **3rd grade** - Students are writing about friends and the kinds of friends they want to be.
- **SSN** - The new specials rotation will be completed this week. New classroom rules are being developed.
- **English Language Development** - Two dozen new English as a Second Language (ESL) students have been assessed and are being placed into classes.

5. Principal's report (Katie Lynch)

Thanks to PTA for these updates:

- New school banners featuring new are and updated PRIDE words
- New chair rail in main hallway. Fire chief reviewed the building fire safety.
- New security cameras - NRE now has a 180 degree view of the playground and the back of school. A new security camera has also been installed by Mobile Classrooms #4-5.
- New [Raptor](#) system - Visitors need ID to sign-in. NRE is awaiting approval from school district for installing a new check-in window between the front door and second set of doors to the building. The second set of doors won't be locked.
- Learning Commons (Library)- Updated by NRE parents this summer with new paint. ThinkTank classes now have more space to spread out. Mary Peck, Volunteer Coordinator, is also acting as the Learning Commons specialist and helping kids checkout books and reading stores. NRE is Currently reviewing existing inventory of library books. Outdated books to be returned to the district library center.
- School Garden - Miss Nickie (Art) has been tended the garden everyday this summer. Currently kids are turning plants into dye and paint for art classes.

Meet and Greet Feedback - Parents liked having multiple times and days, one-on-one time with the teacher, smaller groups, and it was easier to find parking during the day. Parents also shared that the experience was less stressful for the kids and it gave kids a chance see familiar faces and meet new ones.

Working parents would like more check-in times and days in the early PM. Parents also missed having admin and specials presentations. Some parents didn't know they had to bring their kids to the Meet and Greet.

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Teachers reported they had to repeat answering same questions over and over again. Parents suggested including a link to commonly asked questions on the Signup Genius Form or posting these common questions on the Teacher's website.

Volunteer Signups - Meet and Greet Days are good opportunities to recruit parent volunteers. Parents suggested contacting interested parent volunteers more quickly after Meet and Greet Days to help parents plan their work schedules. A parent volunteered to help with reaching out to interested parents.

Book Fair Feedback - The Scholastic Book Fair is a fundraiser for the school. This year we raised \$5,000. Parents like ordering for their teacher's classroom libraries rather than buying books just for themselves. **Question: Should we move the Book Fair to early October (during parent-teacher conferences)?**

MySchoolBucks - MySchoolBucks is the website parents can use to set up automatic payments for school lunch. DCSD is now using MySchoolBucks to collect student fees. During school registration, some parents saw a school fee appearing multiple times on their profile. **Question: Who to contact if you have questions about student fees?**

- NRE After School Clubs - Just updated Thu 8/23. My School Bucks is also available to register and pay for NRE extracurricular activities such as Art Club, Chess Club, Run Club, etc. Parents must login to their MySchoolBucks account, then click on School Store > Browse All Items and check Extracurricular.

NRE Goals - Everybody's Different - Everyone's Human - This year's focus will be on Reading and Math.

New Hires / Staff Changes

- RTI / MTSS Intervention Specialist - Tawnya Houghton moving to new job. Erin Lehnert (2nd grade) moving into the position
- 2nd Grade - Maddy Cole - 3rd year teacher from Iowa
- 3rd Grade - Cathy Frey - completed teacher practicum @ NRE
- 6th Grade - Carrie Fank - hired from Littleton Public Schools
- SPED - Logan Krisl - hired from JeffCo Public Schools
- Music - Chelsea Davis - Updated the space. Will teach Orchestra.

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- Ms. McGonagle is returning to teach Band
- Health - Dorothy Garton
- ESL - Maisy Albaugh (returning) ESL numbers increased since last year;
 - Melinda Wales (NRE parent, sub) is now teaching ESL
- Counselor - Kristina Hilton is introducing herself to all the kids and classes. Parents are already expressing interest in meeting with Kristina individually. District-wide, a focus on Mental Health and Social-Emotional Support is a top priority for DCSD School Board and new Superintendent.
- Building Engineer - Dan moved to Heritage Elementary. Welcome Dean Betz.
- Additional EAs, EA 4s, Retired Teachers

Class Enrollment - Presentation linked [here](#)

- 3rd Grade class size average is 27 (Discovery is 19)
- 4th Grade is 29 (Discovery is 26) - additional EA hired
- 5th Grade is 23.7 (Discovery is 18)
- 6th Grade is 28.7 (Discovery is 12)
- 2 Retired teachers support every class in every grade;
- Ideal class sizes: 24 for non-Discovery; 20 for Discovery

Class Enrollment Questions

- **Do Gifted Kids (who are not in the Discovery Program) have access to accelerated or more challenging curricula, e.g. Advanced Math?** Yes, NRE adapts to meet the student's needs. Mara Howell, for example, teaches CML and provides advanced math instruction for identified students.
- **Why is the 6th Grade Discovery Class so small in comparison to other 6th Grade classes at NRE?**
 - This July, four 6th grade Discovery students left NRE for other schools.
 - Many Discovery students are students who have identified as twice-exceptional (e.g. identified special needs and gifted). These students benefit more from increased social-emotional support and smaller class sizes.

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- NRE receives additional funding from the District to support smaller 6th grade Discovery class sizes. This additional funding can be used at the Principal's discretion.
- **Additional Feedback and Discussion:** Some parents would like to see fewer specials in exchange for smaller class sizes. Many families are grandfathered in as students, even after they move out of NRE's boundaries.

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) - the week of September 4th

- This is a nationally normed test used to identify students with unique or special learning abilities and needs. Universal testing is free for all 3rd/6th graders in the District. The test contains a verbal, a non-verbal and a quantitative section.
- In addition NRE also accepts test referrals for students in all other grades from a teacher or a parent. To request the test, parents must complete the [Consent to Test form](#). NRE has 35 kids currently requesting CogAT Testing.
- Teachers have referred NRE students for CogAT testing. Parents: check you mail and email for [a letter explaining the CogAT](#) and the district's process for identifying gifted students. By requesting the CogAT, parents agree to initiate the District's gifted identification process.

CMAS Score Summary ([click here to see detailed CMAS results here](#))

2018 CMAS English Language Arts Overall Scale Score (highest score = 800)			
Grade	NRE	District	State
3rd	770	748	738
4th	760	752	745
5th	771	753	746
6th	767	754	743
2018 CMAS Math Overall Scale Score (highest score = 800)			
Grade	NRE	District	State
3rd	766	747	739

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4th	756	743	734
5th	766	744	737
6th	758	745	733
2018 Growth Scores (highest score = 100)			
	NRE	District	State
All Students Growth - English Language Arts	53	56	50
All Students Growth - Math	55	58	50

Key Takeaways from CMAS:

- In 2017, NRE scored better than the district and state averages on CMAS English Language Arts and CMAS Math Test Results.
 - Question: Do Discovery students skew the test scores? When NRE is compared to the 3 other schools in DCSD with a Discovery program, NRE continues to score better.
- Math Reasoning - NRE students score well on Math Modeling in all grades. The Math Reasoning score suggests that NRE students need additional support to explain their problem solving process. This will be a priority with the Math in Focus curriculum this year.
 - Lower math scores from previous years appear to have improved.
- Growth Scores in CMAS English Language Arts and CMAS Math - Growth scores showed that **all** NRE students are displaying signs of academic growth, no matter what student demographic: ESL, Minority, Gifted, and students at or below grade level, are showing academic growth.
 - **Free / Reduced Lunch Students** - Scores for these students are lower than the district average in English Language Arts. **Question: Since NRE doesn't know which students are in this program, how can our community better support these students?**
 - **6th Grade Female English Language Arts and Math Growth Scores** - NRE female students show above average scores in English Language Arts and

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average scores in Math. **Question:** How can we better support female student interest in STEM subjects in the upper elementary grades?

- **Hispanic Math Scores** - Math scores for Hispanics are lower than district average (47). **Question:** How can we better support Hispanic students in Math?
- Science Scores - CMAS Science Scores show that NRE 5th Grade Students score better than the average District Science Score in Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Systems, and Science Investigations. NRE doesn't have a specific science curriculum, instead NRE teachers know how to choose and teach relevant science-related topics.

Science Subject Area	% of NRE Students display strength in this area	% of District Students who display strength in this area
Physical Science	51%	20%
Life Science	48	19
Earth Systems	40	20
Science Investigations	40	18

Question: What variables have the greatest impact on student academic performance? Despite larger class sizes, NRE continues to perform better than the average student in the district and the state? Link [here](#) to Research Paper by John Hattie, Visible Learning.

6. District Accountability Committee (DAC) Report (Rotating with Members)

- Shared by Kirk Harris - an NRE Parent sits on the DAC board;
- **Question:** Is there a relationship between DAC and Bright Futures?
- Bond / Mill Levy Override Issue this November - DCSD Board approved measure to include this measure in the November 2018 ballot. NRE one of the top 3 schools in line for funding. Specifically need to update boiler, carpet, exterior and more.
- **Question:** If the Bond / Mill Levy Override passes, how will the additional funding be used to address NRE's needs. [Click here to 2017-2018 Master Capital Plan and specific needs for NRE.](#)

7. PTA Report (Sheetal Parsons)

- **Edukits and Back-to-School Carnival Completed!**
- **Upcoming Dates -**
 - Tuesday, Aug 28 - Fun-run in August
 - Restaurant Night - Cold Stone

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- Multicultural Night
 - PTA Meeting (9/11 at 2:15)
 - Still looking for VP and
 - Muffins for Mom (Erin volunteered)
- **PRIDE Rock** - Signup and payment system signup in September - website, facebook, weekly blast; Please read the Rules for PRIDE Rock;
- **Funds focus** - school, teacher, students; Example \$200 gift cards teachers; \$500 gift cards specials teachers
- 8. **Open forum for guests - Tabled for September meeting**
 - a. Bright Futures for Douglas County Kids, Kelly Pointer
 - b. Proposed 250 bond / 40 mlo - we haven't approved one since 2006
 - c. Also on the ballot Statewide Initiative Amendment 73 - Colorado school funding

Meeting ended at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by Filipina Pate.