

DPAC Minutes

November 12, 2013

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Debarah Katz-Downie (UHS), Jennifer Showerman (YR), Jaimee Gleisner (TP), Carrie Taylor (Prairie), Lashaunda Cunningham (UMS), Anita Rent (YR), Pat Faust (Wiley), Ruofi Yian (Wiley), Regina Parnell (King), Valerie Murphy (King), Jonathan Manton (UMS), Nancy McElwain (Leal), Jennifer Frerichs (CO)

Meeting Purpose:

In groups, review each school's webpages and provide recommendations based on the following:- Things I Like, What I need, What I want, and Other thoughts/comments.

Things I like:

UMS: Homework blog- needs to be kept up to date; Announcements- when posted early in the day; Skyward; home page is inviting but perhaps update pictures to reflect current year; seems well organized, clear to find information about academics/activities.

Yankee Ridge: Principal message, History of the building, description of school colors and mascot

King: Picture of Principal and message from the Principal

Prairie: Homework Policy

Thomas Paine: Upcoming events on front page, Leal has pictures of students on their homepage, which is very welcoming; Leal has a history of the school, which made it feel established (a culture to attach to)

Wiley: Parent PTA link under parent link; online volunteer application; student organizations, picture of students on the front page

Leal: The pictures of the kids on the home page; more information provided in quick links; The history of the school makes people feel the school is well established.

What I need:

UHS: Create a hierarchical structure between the District and Buildings to increase communication and keep it updated very regularly, at least monthly, *each building could have more information pertinent to them.

UMS: Important Deadlines/Dates Coming Up- Better Calendar specific to UMS; contact list for specific problems; contact information for long-term subs; more clarity with homework blog with split LA classes; important deadline notifications,

Main office contact inform/general information numbers/email (not always sure who to go to for help with general questions)

Yankee Ridge:

Address and phone numbers more visible; health tips

King:

address and phone numbers more visible; more pictures (cube, rotate); newsletter on website

Prairie: Address and phone numbers more visible; more pictures (cube, rotate)

Thomas Paine: Link to Skyward on the front page with explanation and/or webinar; Focus on PTA- what it is, how to get involved, link to PTA website, meetings etc.; Focus on major events, news, changes

Wiley: Teacher bios; teacher website links; teacher newsletters; Skyward link up front (Quick link with explanation).

Leal: District newsletter on the homepage; link to parent advisory committee on the homepage; links to suggestions or questions on the homepage

What I want:

UHS: Need to get EVERYONE on skyward immediately. Suggest that Fall registration is not complete until families have logged into Skyward. We need to message (market) that we are great schools; Need to include more on Graduation rates – rotate focus on Academics/ Arts/Sports; List all clubs/Activities with links; Mission statement on top; automated tools to find broken links, need a way to contact “the site” with general questions and suggestions.

UMS: Easier way to get to team/teacher information

Yankee Ridge: Welcome message; Resource page (i.e. for homeless families, ESL); list of all TA’s working with homeroom teachers

King: History about building/school; diversity numbers(ratio); information needs to be more concise on all web pages (too much information); Resource page (i.e homeless families, ESL); list of all TA’s working with homeroom teachers

Prairie: Newsletter page needs updated, list of all TA’s working with homeroom teachers.

Thomas Paine: Links to teacher individual websites; teacher bios on staff page; library information- more detail about reading levels/appropriate books; student organization information- how can I get my kid more involved?

Wiley: Focus on PTA- what it is/how to get involved; Reading Guidance for Accelerated readers; home page for every school should be “school information” and school news should be side link; access to sight words, common core.

Leal: The calendar link and important phone numbers on the homepage.

Other thoughts/comments:

UHS: Building and District Communication; No search bar which creates a problem when finding archived material; Guidance menu is too long and goes off page – Guidance is a broken link; Migration issue between District site and UHS Guidance site (Links are still “test”); problem for incoming families- District site for calendar does not work; staff not updated for 2013-2014; Better information on “how to use skyward”; Who updates these pages?; District Calendar for High School has no events- nothing. If I need to know when my daughter’s band concert is there is no way. Directory- staff page not up to date

Thomas Paine: Current Quick links – not helpful especially front and center; Add quick links for : PTA, Skyward, District calendar); The featured article seems irrelevant, focus instead on major tools for parents; choose most important link from each category (information, programs, staff, parents, etc..) and put that as the quick links on the homepage; the school information should be the homepage; the school news should be a side category; Homepage should include district presence-like the newsletter.

Wiley: Battle of the books online; current quick links not entirely useful; quicklinks need to be centralized with the district; Include history of every school on Homesite;; Calendar- district calendar home page on all school homepages

Leal: The calendar look not very attractive.