

01/19/2023 PAC Meeting

*Note: I arrived late and may have missed information from the beginning of the meeting.

- Parents spoke about UCCS having more events/meetings where families could build relationships with one another.
- Parent briefly asked a question about field trips.
- Discussion on Black History Months. Ideas discussed include:
 - Assigning a figure for each class to research
 - Having students look back at family history to find an important figure whom students are related to
- Discussion about UCCS Attendance Policy & Procedures
 - UCCS Attendance Currently at ~83% (low compared to past attendance figures)
 - Lead to a discussion about helping families receive necessary services (food, clothing, transportation, etc) and how to get this information to UCCS families.
- Next PAC Meeting will focus on SEL (date TBD)
- Discussion on finding a parent to be a part of the UCCS Board
 - Discussion about fingerprinting

PAC Meeting #2-11/17/2022

- Parent and staff introductions
- Parents will know meeting dates in advance.
 - Send out email (1 week prior)
 - Phone call (day before each meeting)
- PAC meeting will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month from 5-6 pm.
- Parent/Teacher Conference Discussion
 - Parents shared that teachers were very clear and detailed about their child's learning.
 - Teachers explained the meaning and understanding of the newly standards based report cards for students.
 - Teachers provided parents with suggestions that they could use at home to assist with student learning.
 - Parents were very pleased to receive NYS test scores and iReady test data for their child.
 - Parents were informed that test scores data is used to group students and guide instruction for student improvement.
- Discussed dismissal policy for picking up children
 - Parents shared that they felt the pick-up process during dismissal takes too long and that they have to stand out in the cold while waiting.
 - It was explained to parents that safety is UCCS' first priority to ensure that students are picked up by the authorized individual.
 - The CEO shared that UCCS is looking into implementing a new online system for parent pick-ups that includes generating an instant message to parents.
- Parents asked about the closing of school this past Monday
 - The CEO also shared that UCCS is working on improving and updating our school website as well as communication for families.
 - A parent shared that she did not receive the robo call for the closing of school. However she did receive the email but did not check her email that morning.
 - The CEO shared that school was canceled for Monday due to a high number of staff and teacher absences due to sickness.
- Need parent volunteer for the Board Of Trustees meeting every 2nd Thursday of the month.
- Parent suggestions and questions discussed
 - Parents asked how is UCCS being proactive to prevent bullying?
 - Mr. Samuel shared that UCCS has implemented Restorative Practices as part of the school culture.
 - In addition, UCCS is actively looking for noticings of our students such as, facial expressions, body language, and being accessible to students.

- Students also have the opportunity to receive daily check-ins from preferred staff members to share any concerns, thoughts and feelings.
- One parent expressed that she feels that UCCS is doing a great job with keeping the children safe and engaged in learning.

- Next parent meeting will be on December 15th.

PAC Meeting #1-9/22/2022

- Parent and staff introductions
- Parents will know meeting dates in advance.
 - Send out email (1 week)
 - Phone call (day before)
- PAC meeting will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month 5-6 pm.
 - Parents were provided with a sheet with future meeting dates.
- Discussed policy for picking up children early.
 - Parents need to call the main office by 3pm if they are picking up their child early.
 - Please try your best to not pick up your child until 4:15pm which is when dismissal starts.
- Open House is next Thursday, September 29 6-7:30pm
 - Information was sent home in your child's red folder on Friday. Please be sure to check your child's red folder every Friday,
 - Table will be set up to recruit more parents to be a part of the PAC.

Volunteers:

- ❖ Omar's Mom and Dad
- ❖ Stone's Dad

- Workshop ideas for future meetings
 - Resources for parents (food, housing, jobs, medical)
 - Current curriculum (wit & wisdom, phonics to reading, magnetic reading & eureka)
 - Behavioral and social emotional health
 - School safety (to and from, within)
 - Standards based report cards
 - Bring in community organizations to help families
- Better communication with parents.
 - Parents would like to be in the know with how their child is doing academically, behaviorally and important school events.
 - Both parents would like to be contacted.
 - Make sure email and phone number is updated in main office

- Parents will help plan future events at school, fundraisers and create parent survey questions.
- Need parent volunteer for Board Of Trustees meeting every 2nd Thursday of the month.

PAC Meeting #2-9/19/2022 (Staff)

- Mr. Samuel is expecting at least 12-15 parents at the meeting.
 - He will set up 30 chairs in the media room.
- There will be a table for PAC at the Open House.
 - Mr.Samuel will recruit volunteers at the first PAC meeting.
- Every parent meeting will take place on the third Thursday from 5-6pm.

PAC Meeting #1-8/31/2022 (Staff)

- Parent advisory committee will meet every 3rd Thursday of each month
- Mr. Samuel will send out letter recruiting parents for PAC
 - All parents and guardians are welcome to attend. PAC will be open to all students parents and guardians this year.
- We need to get parents more involved in school.
 - Can we get parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to come to the school for projects and read aloud in a classroom that is different from the grade that their child (ren)?
 - Parents can assist with school wide/family events.
- Throughout the school year parent workshops will be offered for the following:
 - ❖ Literacy
 - ❖ Using technology (google drive, microsoft word & powerpoint)
 - ❖ Cyber safety tips
 - ❖ Standards based report cards
 - ❖ Examining i-ready data
 - ❖ Test prep 3rd-8th grade parents & caregivers
- Next PAC meeting will be held on **September 15th at 8:30-8:45 am**

PAC Meeting 5 - 03/17/2022

5:05 - Announced finalization of parent survey

5:11 - Looking for 2 parents for Board of Trustees

- More info provided to parents at request
- Announced that CSO mandates at least 1 parent on the board.
- Meetings are every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6PM.

5:16 - Shared with parents the dates of the NYS Math and ELA assessments, and the importance of students participation.

5:23 - Discussed with parents that the Charter School Office will be visiting UCCS in the month of May for our charter renewal visit.

5:32 - Shared with parents that the 2nd iReady Diagnostic math and Reading test will be taking place for students to determine student progress.

5:38 - Discussed with parents that Parent Teacher Conferences are approaching.

5:47

-Other issues raised by parents: Teachers not contacting parents consistently, students bullying other students, and what is being done about it.

PAC Meeting 5 - 02/17/2022

5:10 - Announced Parent Teacher Conferences will be on 03/03/2022

5:15 - Looking for 2 parents for Board of Trustees

- More info provided to parents at request
- Announced that CSO mandates at least 1 parent on the board.
- Meetings are every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6PM.

5:24 - Revisited questions for parent survey to discuss the final questions to be submitted in March.

5:46 -Other issues raised by parents: afterschool programs, sports for students to participate in, family events being held this year.

PAC Meeting 5 - 01/20/2022

5:10 - Announced End of Quarter is Friday, 01/28/2022

5:15 - Looking for 2 parents for Board of Trustees

- More info provided to parents at request
- Announced that CSO mandates at least 1 parent on the board.
- Meetings are every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6PM. Multiple parents expressed concern that they do not receive robo-call/email updates of when meetings occur.

5:20 - Broke into 2 teams of parents/staff to draft questions for an upcoming survey to go out to parents. Goal is to send out in March

*Discussed accessibility of survey (paper, QR Code, etc.)

-Questions Drafted by Groups:

- Is there access to board meetings for parents?
- Do you feel your child is safe at school? Does your child feel safe at school?
- Does UCCS support ESL students?
- Are you satisfied with the following things: bus service, COVID protocols/procedures, lunch portions/service, communication with teachers, extracurriculars?
- What extracurriculars would you like to see implemented?
- Do you have questions about leadership/administration?
- Do you receive a lunch menu?
- How do you feel about the new report cards? Did you receive report cards?
- Do you feel enough info about the school is being shared with parents?
- Do you feel that the school communicates well with parents?
- How satisfied are you with UCCS, scale of 1-5?

-Other issues raised by parents: sharing of school COVID rates, afterschool programs, weekly updates, Spanish being offered to students, issues with Ontario Busing.

PAC Meeting 4 - 11/04/2021

5:00 - Introductions

5:05 - Discussed Item #1: Past Meeting Topics

Parent-Teacher Conferences: 11/18/21 from noon-6PM, All Virtual
Board of Trustees Involvement: Still looking for two parents

5:10 - Discussed Item #2: Family Night

December 2nd Family Night - Game Night: 5:30-7PM
but one more still needed

PAC Table/Recruitment: M. Samuel will reach out to PAC Member to volunteer at the table
parents to participate.

Assist Family Connections Team: NOT DISCUSSED

5:15 - Item #3: Meet With Leadership Team

Q1: When will OTUS Codes be sent home to Middle School?

-CV: Later this week or early next week. Described OTUS (what? why?)

Q2: Will parents be able to sign up to OTUS at Family Night?

-This will be available at the PAC Table

Q3: Will there be more communication with parents via Social Media?

-LM: School is locked out of old SM accounts, currently setting up new accounts with CEI support. Website will be updated more often as well.

Q4: Will OTUS be the only mode of contact?

-No, robocalls, school messenger, PowerSchool emails will also be used as well

Q5: What is protocol on notifying parents of new teachers?

-LM: Discussed nationwide teacher shortage. Stated parents will be notified when hires are made, specifically, 7th/8th Science teacher.

-CP: Discussed how our staffing issues aren't as challenging as other schools, looking for quality, not "warm bodies"

-CP talked about school safety issues. Discussed challenging aspects of social media and group chats in behavioral challenges (TikTok challenges & bathroom issues). Discussed changes toward restorative practices.

-DN expressed wish to build bridges between parents and Leadership, and build a strong community at UCCS. Acknowledged PAC is a good first step.

5:55 - Meeting Wrapped: Next meeting date TBD

PAC Meeting 3 - 10/22/2021

5:00 - Introduction

5:05 - Discussed Item #1: Past Meeting Topics

Open House: Changed due to last PAC meeting

Playground: Still working on what needs to be done, weeds will be cut this weekend

OTUS: Codes to be sent home to parents within a week

5:10 - Discussed Item #2: Parent Involvement

Board of Trustees Involvement: Discussed how one parent is interested in this position, but one more still needed

Parent Focus Groups: M. Samuel Introduced Roc Ed. Fellowship program, looking for 25 parents to participate.

5:20 - Item #3: PAC Actions

Setting PAC Goals: Broke into small groups to brainstorm goals for PAC. Ideas for Goals:

- SEL Skills Workshops for Families

- Connections to the Community (via food, etc.) - Foodlink already involved, idea About making food cupboards like the ones Food Not Bomb has created.

- Enrichment Day for Students - Activity clubs (sports, art, esports, etc.), lead by W. Schumacher

- Clothes Drive - Involve CK Foundation? (M. Samuel mentioned Thanksgiving baskets)

- Financial Literacy Classes for Families & Older Students

- Parent Involvement in Classes (volunteers, lead projects)

- PAC Sign-Up at Family Nights

Improving PAC Communication: Recruit more families to PAC via table at Family Nights, Social Media, etc. Ms. Nolan reiterated need for better communication via Social Media. PAC Section of the School Newsletter was discussed.

December 2nd Family Night:

- W. Schumacher asked about budget for family nights.

- Ms Nolan voiced concern about social distancing with cold weather coming and more events indoors.

- Ms. Squier suggested a game night for a future Family Night

5:55 - Meeting Wrapped: Next meeting on 11/04/2021. Leadership Team will attend.

PAC Meeting 2 - 09/23/2021

5:00 - Introductions

5:10 - Discussed Items #1 of the Agenda, Open House Cancellation

5:15 - Discussed Item #2 of the Agenda, Board of Trustees Involvement & New York State Charter Parent Association

5:25 - Discussed Setting Goals for PAC

-Possible Goals Mentioned:

1. Pre-Meeting Agenda, so as to be better prepared for each meeting
2. Fixing Up or Replacing the Playground
 - Felix stated that he works for the city, and could get more information about the manufacturer & parts. Also stated that, if it can't be fixed, it should be cleaned up, to avoid infestation by pests
3. Fixing Open House
 - Talked about getting parents in to see the new building. Possibly staggering days by grade-level so that there aren't too many people in the building at once.
4. Regular In-Person Communication with Leadership
 - One parent asked about having regular meetings open to all parents where they could meet and discuss issues with the Leadership Team.
5. Improve Communication within the PAC
 - This will be addressed once a PAC Chair is named

5:55 - Wrapped Up Meeting

PAC Meeting 1 - 08/31/2021

5:00 - Introductions

5:15 - Introduced Family/School Partnership Standards

DN shared how school needs to be better at communicating with parents, particularly Administration & the Board. Example given of how school rechartering wasn't communicated to parents. School was better at this in the past. She suggested utilizing existing social media accounts for general announcements.

MS Explained purpose of PAC, mentioned Parent Workshops would be planned for the year (better understanding of iReady, etc.); then reviewed the history of school data (Grades 6-8 struggle, linked back to earlier education at UCCS).

5:30 - Review PAC Expectations, Goals to be set at future meetings.

DN & AA expressed a desire for more information about WHEN things are happening (teacher letters sent out, etc.)

LT expressed concern about COVID in school, specifically about how serious mask-wearing would be once school starts.

MS mentioned future PAC activities (Open House, Parent Survey); mentioned meeting will be monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5-6PM, and that next meeting will be on 9/23; Introduced the establishment in the future of chair, vice chair, and treasurer positions within PAC.

5:45 - Meeting adjourned and refreshments served.