



Work as a table to group sticky notes



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STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP

End of Year Presentation

**PURPOSE OF
STUDENT
ADVISORY
GROUP AND
BOARD
INITIATIVES**



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MENTAL HEALTH

Presented by Lia Pirazzi,
Kira Zizzo, and Nick
Menzel



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GROUP INTRODUCTIONS

Split into Two groups based on teacher and student mental health education

Student group

Implementing a class that focuses on:

- Coping/restorative practices
- Connection to professional help resources
- Situational learning/procedures
 - Suicide prevention

Teacher group

Implementing a credit style system related to teacher training:

- Destigmatize mental health
- Equipping teachers with resources recognizing mental health issues
 - Provide support
 - Suicide prevention

STUDENT EDUCATION

Problem statement:

- According to CDC. Gov 4.4 million children aged 3-17 have diagnosed anxiety
- 1.9 million have diagnosed depression
- Currently counselors with brief presentations to provide brief lessons to students but that is not enough to spread full awareness

Proposed Solution:

Mental health courses that focus on educating communities about the complexity regarding mental health and researching:

- different mental health conditions, coping mechanisms
- how to help others and yourself with mental health issues

STUDENT EDUCATION

Overview:

- Create a class curriculum regarding different types of mental health
- teach students to recognize mental health issues
- Enable students to access resources through fellow classmates

Objectives:

- Educate students on mental health and current stigmas against and around it
- Suicide prevention

Areas of Focus

- Recognition of mental health illnesses; an increase in resources and education

Coping/Restorative Practices

- Connection to professional help resources; Situational learning/procedures

TEACHER EDUCATION

Problem Statement:

- Student mental health has been at an all time low
- High rates of students with feelings of anxious, depressed, and hopeless

Proposed Solution:

- Create a comprehensive mental health training curriculum
- Additional depth and expansion of topics in teacher mental health

TEACHER EDUCATION

Overview:

- Implementing a policy for more comprehensive training and education
- Providing resources
- Adapting curriculum format to a more interactive model

Objectives:

- Helping to destigmatize the current view on mental health
- Equipping teachers with resources and knowledge to recognize stresses
- How to individually support students

Areas of Focus

- Areas of focus were created to satisfy both student and teacher mental health training needs

TEACHER EDUCATION

Current Mental Health Training Delivery Method:

- A ten minute video encompasses all of teacher and staff mental health curriculum and training

Proposed Mental Health Training Delivery Method:

- In-person and face to face training with hands-on interactive learning,
- Teachers learn to recognizing risk factors
 - How to connect students to supportive resources

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Presented by Nick
Novotny



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CURRENT STATUS

Goal

- To make a financial literacy class

Progress

- Agreed on a course
 - Description
- Alignment with Colorado Academic Standards
 - Parent Department

Delays

- Inconsistent with attendance
 - More assistance

Near Completion

WHAT WE WERE UNABLE TO FINISH

Areas of further improvement

- Specifics on the budget
 - Systems Check
- Implementation Needs

NEXT YEAR

Counsel with an experienced adult

- Versed in course proposals

Needs Completion

- Budget Specifics
- System Checks
- implementation Needs

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Link to Full Course Proposal](#)

[Link to General Notes we took on Financial Literacy Course](#)

Emails for Questions:

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SCHOOL SAFETY

Presented by
Jacob Hall



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OUR SUBGROUP AND OUR PURPOSE

The Safety subgroup was founded in the fall of 2019, and we have been working on a proposal for the past two school years

- Formed in response to the STEM school shooting that occurred in our community.

Mission and Purpose:

- To help ensure the safety and security of all DCSD students and staff
- To avoid any disruptions to our education
- To enhance our safety protocols in the Douglas County School District

As our subgroup evolved, we realized that there are even more issues to be addressed surrounding safety of students and staff in the district.

TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS

- **Held discussions** with the director of security
 - **Light poles** installed in every school hallway
 - **Color coded system** to indicate the status of the building
 - Green - “All Clear”
 - Yellow - “Weather Emergency”
 - Red - “Lockout”
 - Purple - “Lockdown”
- **Integrated app** to enhance communication

TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS

- **Benefits of this new system:**
 - Clear and concise information at all times
- **COVID-19 has delayed plans for this system**
 - The district safety and security board will not consider the product until they can view an in-person demonstration.
- **Proposal**
 - The SAG Safety Subgroup is willing to provide assistance in any manner to help implement the system.
 - We encourage the Board of Education to approve Mr. Payne's new security system in the near future.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

2nd Part of Proposal - Student Representative

- A SAG member will be a representative of the Safety and Security Committee
- **Application** - We drafted an application, which was released to student advisory group members
- **Representative Responsibilities**
 - Attend the Douglas County Safety and Security Meetings once per month
 - Provide feedback to the committee and provide student input
- This representative will be selected by the end of the 2020 - 2021 school year, and will begin work in the 2021 - 2022 year.

FUTURE OF THE SAFETY SUBGROUP

- **Implement a program** to educate students about issues pertaining to sexual harassment and consent.
- **Collaborative efforts** with various district and school officials
- **SART (Sexual Assault Resource Team) Peers Program**
 - Would like to launch a small pilot program at Rock Canyon High School next year for consent training
- **Plans and Goals for the future:**
 - Launch this pilot program
 - Monitor and refine the program
 - Implement SART in all of the District's Schools.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY

Presented by Silver
Bernsdorf



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EMPOWERMENT

- Build foundations to empower students and teachers to speak up about discrimination
- Give specific instruction and information regarding the reaction to discrimination within the student handbook, along with correcting errors
- Reward students and teachers for speaking up (stickers/pins?)
- Make it easier for students and teachers to show their own, and support other's identities
- Build a community that pushes for equity

EDUCATION

- Integrate LGBTQ+ and diverse accounts of history (not just the White/European telling)
- Inform students and teachers alike of the importance of proper pronouns and names, and the impact on the not using them
- Assemble accounts from students and teachers of the discrimination they have seen, and its effects
- Define the terms, ie race vs ethnicity and gender vs sexuality

GETTING THE WORD OUT TO TEACHERS

- Telling teachers to get involved if they see/hear anything that is discriminating against a student
- Hanging up posters in the hallway to remind students about being open minded to different cultures, opinions, and interests
- Telling teachers to give verbal encouragement to those who are open minded on diverse topics

ACCEPTING OTHERS

- Educating students in how it's okay to have friends different than you
- Being respectful and not assuming gender or race
- Asking respectfully the following should be normalized in the learning environment:
 - “What are your preferred pronouns?”
 - “What’s your ethnicity?”

ENFORCE REPRIMANDING OFFENSIVE SLURS

- Educate students and teachers on what words are offensive and shouldn't be allowed
- Student and teacher should feel like they can stand up and stop others from using slurs
- Set clear rules and make sure that ALL offensive words and action are reprimanded, not just some

REPORTING

- Educating teachers on the importance of getting involved if they see/hear anything that is discriminatory
- Educating students that it is possible for them to report incidences that involve discrimination against them or others
- Empowering students to report things without feeling scared of going to the wrong person or of potential backlash
- Helping students and teachers understand that they owe it to their peers to report and have no tolerance for discrimination

DISTRICT FINANCES

Presented by Leigh
Walden and Lucas
Gauthier



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THREE TIERED PROPOSAL PLAN

**FOC Student
Member(s)**

**Student Voice in
District Finance**

**Formal
Recommendation**

STUDENT FOC MEMBER

Increased Student Involvement

- With the expectation of cuts within our schools in the 2021-22 school year, student bodies would like to provide insight into essential departments
- New student member on the Financial Oversight Committee aided by district CFO Kate Kotaska and the FOC Leadership including James Maras
- Application process and future member initiation timeline

FUTURE GOALS

Forward Facing Statements

- SAG Finance Subgroup advising FOC student member to enhance student voice in finance
- Prioritizing issues important to students by bringing together viewpoints from the entire district
- Helping to orient district spending towards student priorities
- Represents an important addition to the student voice in DCSD

FORMAL RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION

- The Bond and Levy was a long delayed and desperately needed piece of legislation. Our formal recommendation (see handout) is a prompt investigation into funding and possible legislation in the future.
- Conversation initially needs to revolve around what we've been able to do, but also of what we hope to do
 - Great work to hire more counselors and expand buildings
 - Teachers in DCSD ought to have more competitive wages with CO

RECOMMENDATION ACTION ITEMS

- Create a committee of students, educators, and community members to guide the process and give insight into the needs of schools
- Draft a tax legislation by 2022 for a new bond and levy to funds our schools

ECO-FRIENDL Y

Presented by Sujay
Potlapelly

The logo for Douglas County School District features a stylized blue figure of a person with arms raised, positioned to the left of the text. The text 'Douglas County' is in a bold, green, sans-serif font, and 'School District' is in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it.

**Douglas
County**
School District

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PURPOSE

- This policy is to create a positive, long-term impact on the schools in the district by asking each school to create a management plan for how they are going to lessen negative impacts on the environment
- The policy outlines a committee put in charge of keeping track of each school's plan and the format/requirements for a school to comply with the policy

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

1. Review school's current sustainability plan/state
2. Determine what issues your school wants to address
3. Creating a decisive plan to address the issue
4. Monitor progress of the plan

DETAILS REGARDING SEMP

- Committee can be a mix of students and faculty members at each school.
- The committee: makes a plan at the beginning of the year, shares it with the board of education, and creates a end-of-year report.

FORMAT FOR POSSIBLE SEMPS

- BOE will provide a list of the ideas to the schools of changes they could choose to implement to move towards a more sustainable operation.
- Students, members of the public, and others involved with the school district can share their ideas

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE SEMPS

- Decreasing lunchroom waste
- Teaching students about the impacts of their actions on the environment
- Increasing the number of students taking the bus
- Teaching and learning resources on environmental education for sustainability
- Resource management for water conservation, waste minimization, or energy efficiency

SUMMARY

- Schools will have a committee that is in charge of creating a sustainability goal for the given school year.
- The committee made of staff members and student volunteers. Their goal is shared with the schools community and the BOE.
- Committee will work towards the goal throughout the year, getting the school to participate through communication with administration.

THANK YOU!

Any questions?



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**RECOGNIZED
SAG
MEMBERS**



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THANK YOU TO OUR SAG LIAISONS

**DEREK CHANEY, Director of Activities,
Athletics, and Student Leadership**

**JAMIE MONTOYA-DE SMIDT, Prevention
Coordinator**

SUE DAKOVICH, Administrative Assistant

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

DIRECTOR DAVID RAY, Board President

DIRECTOR KEVIN LEUNG, Board Treasurer

PRESENTING 2021-2022 SAG LEADERSHIP TEAM



Sujay Potlapelly



Nick Menzel



Josh Lederman



Lucas Gauthier