2017 DAC/SAC Jeffersonian-Style Gathering

• This was the annual Jeffco DAC/SAC spring training meeting on Tuesday, April 18th.
• Jeffco has adopted the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, a program developed by the national PTA.
• On the Colorado TELL Survey in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015, the teaching condition with the strongest connection to high student achievement and growth across all school levels was community support and involvement.
• The goal of the evening was “to make connections, build relationships, and find what has worked in our communities.”
• Important/interesting things learned:
  o The Lincoln Academy community, with its excellent PTO and parent involvement, is doing an outstanding job at engaging families.
  o To engage families who are difficult to reach, we must focus on those groups/types of families, change how/what we do, and be persistent.
  o Relationships with students leads to relationships with parents.
    ▪ Have students teach parents
    ▪ Conduct student-led conferences (students introduce teachers and present their own work to parents)
  o Make attendance at a school meeting (PTO, Board, SAC, etc.) mandatory for new parents in order to kick-start involvement.
  o One school changed the name of their SAC to “PIG” (Parent Involvement Group) and experienced a large increase in attendance. Feedback indicated that parents were intimidated by the words “Accountability” and “Committee”.
  o How do we measure the success of our community engagement and if it is improving student performance?
    ▪ Through “the stories”
    ▪ Survey results
    ▪ Think 3 years out – what do you want for your school? Then think backward to what you want to see each year.
  o How do we engage with the broader community?
    ▪ Invite community organizations to school events
    ▪ Examples: NREL employees read to students weekly, Kiwanis club roasts hot dogs for students at school

New Family Mentor Program (Formerly Known as the Parent Partner Program)

• Soliciting volunteers
• Gathering new family contact information in order to make contact
• New Family Welcome scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th.

Next SAC Meeting

TBA (fall)