Building Support for Schools Through Public Participation

Lisa Granat, Communications Director, Grassroots St Vrain; Hadley Solomon, President, Grassroots St. Vrain; Karna Jones, Outreach Director, Grassroots St. Vrain

Eight years ago, the St. Vrain Valley School District was in a position of financial turmoil, and the community would not support local ballot initiatives. Our visiting panel will describe the cultural shift that occurred, how community members overcame issues of trust, and how successful partnerships between stakeholders in the community and the school district were created to build strong support for schools. This session will highlight an example of how one Colorado school district built a network of informed and engaged community volunteers that is making a meaningful impact to build a stronger school district. (Pairs well with the session on Funding Mechanisms in Finance).

Two 20-minute sessions: 6:30pm & 7:30pm, Library

Current Education Legislation and Civic Engagement

Patrick Neville, House Minority Leader, Kevin Van Winkle, Representative, Highlands Ranch

Interested in current legislation being considered in the Colorado State Legislature that will affect education our students in the DCSD? How can you be aware and participate as an individual to ensure the DCSD community has a voice in legislation that is in the best interest our public schools? Come and be part of this informative session.

One 50-minute session: 6:30pm, Room 142

New SAC Bylaws: What Changed?

Chris Pratt, DAC member

This session will discuss the new SAC Bylaws and how the changes can help your SAC run more efficiently. Gain additional clarification on the various roles, election procedures, and timelines, as well as the larger ongoing responsibilities of the SAC in order to be in compliance with district guidelines and state statutes.

Two 20-minute sessions: 7:30pm & 8pm, Room 143

Principal/Teacher Round Table

Sid Rundle, Principal, Cresthill Middle School; Shannon Clarke, Mountain Ridge Middle School; Celine Wicks, Rocky Heights Middle School

This session will continue the panel discussion on mental health. Principals will engage parents in insights, tips and advice regarding identification and intervention.

Two 20-minute sessions: 6:30pm & 7pm, Room 130

SAC: Best Practices for New Members

Kathy Brown, School/Community Partnership Coordinator

This session will orient new members of School Accountability Committees (SAC) to the purpose of a SAC and the various roles and responsibilities of its members. Current SAC members and leadership teams will be equipped to facilitate a well-functioning committee with shared knowledge in which members understand the purpose and function of their roles, shared responsibilities and are excited about the opportunity to help. Learn to effectively engage school staff, community, and family members to create a supportive culture for authentic family-school-community partnerships.

One 20-minute session: 8pm, Commons
Community Participation & Communication

School Safety and District Communication

Randy Barber, DCSD Chief Communications Officer

The natural instinct for parents or guardians is to come to the school during an emergency to protect their children. However, by doing so, they may endanger themselves and their children. During this session, DCSD Chief Communications Officer Randy Barber will explain why the best place for parents during a crisis may be at home and what district staff will do to ensure your student is safe and you are informed.

Two 20-minute sessions: 6:30pm, Room 141 & 7:30pm, Commons

Stone Canyon Outdoor EdVentures: Outdoor Education, Summer Camp, Leadership Development & Retreats

Jolee Jones, Director, Stone Canyon Outdoor Edventures; Dustin Handrich, Outdoor Education Manager; Alicia Gerber, Summer Camp Manager; Amber Schweitzer, Retreat Manager

Come meet the Stone Canyon team and learn how they are creating innovative outdoor programming for groups of all ages and types. They will provide an overview of Stone Canyon’s mission and goals and how they are affiliated with the district. Jolee Jones, the Director, will outline the effect they have on their clients and the capital needs that affect the organization. The managers from each department will review the various types of programs and events offered from outdoor education to summer camp to corporate development.

Two 20-minute sessions: 6:30pm, Commons and 7pm, Room 141

What Your Student Wishes You Knew: Student Advisory Group

Alec Greven, President, Student Advisory Group; and other members of the SAG

This session will provide the student perspective regarding how meaningful feedback is provided in the teacher evaluation process. This subject is the focus of work currently being done by DCSD Student Advisory Group and will be an interesting session for parents, teachers and administrators alike.

One 50-minute session: 6:30pm, Room 143

Direction of the District Discussion

Erin Kane, DCSD Interim Superintendent

Continue the community dialogue regarding the school district with Interim Superintendent Erin Kane following her keynote. This small-format session will allow more intimate question-and-answer dialogue so you can get to know more about the district and current district leadership.

One 50-minute session: 6:30pm, Room 131

2021 Graduation Requirements: What’s Changing

Robin Russel, Colorado Department of Education

The class of 2021 – the first class to graduate under Colorado’s new Graduation Guidelines – will be entering ninth grade in the Fall of 2017. Are you aware of these changes and what it means for your student? This session will discuss the guideline changes and how these changes are being implemented throughout high schools in Douglas County to ensure our students are prepared to meet the new graduation requirements.

Three 20-minute sessions: 7pm, Commons and 7:30pm & 8pm, Room 142
Budget Priority Recommendation Workshop

Melissa Bergfalk, DAC budget subcommittee chair; Brandi Butticaz, DAC budget subcommittee member; Brian Wetterling, DAC vice chair

Each year, the District Accountability Committee makes recommendation to the Board of Education regarding priorities for the spending of District monies. As part of those recommendations, the DAC solicits community feedback through a survey. This year there will also be an opportunity to participate in this dynamic hands-on budget workshop to assist the DAC budget subcommittee in further identifying budget priorities from the community. This is a valuable opportunity for you to voice your thoughts and solutions with the DAC budget subcommittee as well as fellow community members to develop high level recommendations for the District budget.

One 50-minute session: 7:30pm, Room 129

Capital Needs

Brad Geiger, Long Range Committee Chair and Caryn Becker, Long Range Planning Committee Member

The Douglas County population and the capital needs of the school district are expanding. This session will discuss details of the Master Capital Plan and the four categories and tiers within each category that establish priorities for the wide range of capital needs within DCSD and facilities.

Two 20-minute sessions: 7pm & 8pm, Library

Colorado’s School Funding and 2017-18 Budget Update

Scott Smith, Director of Budget

Learn more about how the school district receives funding from the state of Colorado and see the projected funding for the 2017-18 school year. Understand how site-based budgeting works and learn about the changes in the district from last year.

One 50-minute session: 6:30pm, Room 129

Factors Affecting Ballot Initiatives

Dan O’Connell, RBC Capital Markets

How are school districts able to make ends meet? This session is an overview of the various funding mechanisms for school districts and the unique features of the various mechanisms that are most applicable to DCSD. O’Connell will also present a general overview of voter dynamics that result in statistically predictable success of ballot initiatives during various election cycles. (Pairs well with the session on Building Support for Schools in Community Participation.)

Two 20-minute sessions: 7pm & 8pm, Library
**Educator Effectiveness in DCSD**

*Erica Mason, Director of Educator Effectiveness*

If you have questions about CITE, (Continuous Improvement Teacher Effectiveness) the teacher evaluation tool used in DCSD, this session will provide a brief overview of the Colorado Department of Education regulations that guide evaluation across Colorado and how Douglas County School District uses the CITE tool to guide teacher growth.

*Two 20-minute sessions: 7:30pm & 8pm, Room 141*

**Implementing Effective Family-School-Community Partnerships for Student Learning**

*Lisa Medler, Executive Director, Improvement Planning Unit; Darcy Hutchins, Family Partnership Director*

Participants will learn and discuss strategies to maximize family-school-community partnerships for student learning. Presenters will share promising practices about how schools and districts gather family input on the Unified Improvement Plan. Participants will have an opportunity to plan next steps.

*Two 20-minute sessions: 6:30pm & 7pm, Room 128*

**Unified Improvement Planning - A Deeper Dive into School Performance Frameworks**

*Matt Reynolds, Assessment & System Performance Officer*

In this session we will be reviewing essential data components of the School Performance Frameworks and understand how it impacts the district Unified Improvement Planning (UIP). The UIP need not be an intimidating process, but rest assured, it is a constantly changing process. Learn the many components of the UIP and the process of gathering that critical information for informed discussion with your School Accountability Committee (SAC).

*Two 20-minute sessions: 7:30pm & 8pm, Room 128*