

**District Accountability Committee**

**Meeting December 8, 2015**

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Wilcox Building BOE Room**

**Orientation Session for New Members**

**Wilcox Bldg, 5 -6:30 pm**

**Call to order/Roll Call**

Sandra Brownrigg (voting DAC Chair)

Mark Harrell (voting Principal Representative)

Barb Cousins (Voting Parent)

Melissa Bergfalk (Voting Secondary Teacher)

Brandi Buttica (Voting Parent)

Heather Graves (Voting Community Member)

John Paull (Voting Community Member)

Chris Pratt (Voting Parent)

Jean Medberry (Voting Parent)

Shannon Rasmussen (Voting Parent)

Matt Rogers, (Voting Elementary Teacher)

Judi Reynolds (BOE liaison)

Megan Silverthorne (BOE liaison)

Kathy Brown (DCSD Parent Liaison)

Dr. Steven Cook (DCSD Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education)

Ted Knight (DCSD Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education)

Absent:

Brian Wetterling (voting Vice Chair)

Amy Pfister (voting Recorder)

Kim Kibort (voting Communications Chair)

### Acronyms used in meeting

DAC - District Accountability Committee

EPR - Elementary Progress Report

FOC - Fiscal Oversight Committee

SAC - School Accountability Committee

LRPC - Long Range Planning Committee

PU - Parent University

UIP - Unified Improvement Plan

DCSD - Douglas County School District

CITE - Continuing Innovation Teacher Effectiveness

BOE - Board of Education

CART - Charter Application Review Team

GVC - Guaranteed Viable Curriculum

4C's — Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration

IB - International Baccalaureate

SBB – School Based Budgeting

*Session began at 5:00 pm*

### Orientation

Sandra facilitated the session, including a complete PowerPoint slide show. Introductions of all in attendance followed by questions. It was discussed as to how we communicate recommendations to DCSD BOE. Thru our BOE reps at the meetings and any formal, voted upon motions. CORA/ CO Open Records Law was discussed included the suggestion to create specific email for DAC purposes vs. co-mingling DAC emails with personal emails. We currently have voted to not adopt a separate and specific code of conduct for DAC members and meetings even though other district committees have done so. To date, we don't feel it is needed.

*General Meeting began at 6:30*

### Introductions/Old Business/ Committee Business

Sandra-Welcome! Quorum established. All DAC members introduced themselves.

Motion to approve November 2015 DAC meeting minutes by Jean Medberry, all in favor, no opposed. - Nov 2015 DAC meeting minutes - **APPROVED.**

Brief discussion of the DAC Liaison description changes as we await a reply from the district lawyer, Rob Ross. Rob Ross has approved the language and it is slated to be approved by the Board of Education as soon as is practical. Mr. Ross was uncertain whether it would be on the December agenda or January's.

Last month recap: Many conversations about this over the past months. SAC's need to agree upon the language of this role to move forward. This is a SAC driven item and DAC is facilitating this change. Proposed language changes in bold:

A. District Accountability Committee Liaison:

1. Is an elected or appointed position.
2. Should be a parent representative, a parent from the PTO, or the community member.
3. Attends all scheduled Forums and fathers information from DAC meetings **to report back to the SAC with a DAC Report listed on the SAC's Agenda on the SAC's scheduled meeting dates. The DAC Liaison is the communication link (feedback, concerns, and questions) between SAC and DAC.**
4. Is a member of the SAC.
5. Works in collaboration with principal and SAC Chair to create and monitor the UIP.

The recommendation of the liaison description change is a guideline, not a mandate. Please take this proposed verbiage to your SAC's and discuss. New changes are what DAC suggests school SAC's use, not what DAC is mandating.

Budget priorities for SAC's: (Sandra)-DAC asks SAC's to give feedback on budget priorities. The reality is that school budget priorities are site based for each school/SAC. DAC is still looking at a way to evaluate budget priorities and decide if they are school (site specific) or district wide needs. As a group, we need to work together to find a way to make this realistic and productive. Site based budget allows schools to have some control over their "wants". It is up to each school (and SAC) to determine a want vs. a need with regard to the individual school budget. Focus for DAC this year is recommendations on district wide budget items like transportation, safety, etc.... and looking for ideas, topics and speakers related to funding at the state and federal level.

BOE update (Judi)-Next BOE meeting 12/15 - available on live stream. New board members were installed at last meeting. At this next meeting, there is a special 4 pm meeting to only set the mill for property taxes as there is a deadline to submit and then the regular 7 pm meeting for the remainder of the agenda.

## **Committee Updates**

FOC update (Sandra) – Sandra attended the most recent meeting. Scott Smith to present about the budget later in this DAC meeting so Sandra did not discuss.

LRPC update (Kim) – was absent. Sandra attended. They are doing funding presentations and expressed interest in working with us to promote those.

UIP update (Brian) - was absent. Matt Reynolds to present about the district UIP later in this DAC meeting.

CITE update (Brian) - was absent.

Budget (Sandra) – discussed later in the meeting.

CART update (Barb & Jean) - No update at this time, meetings and reviews begin in March, 2016.

Community Liaison (Kathy) - Working on Parent U classes for next semester, any suggestions or ideas email Kathy - [skbrown@dcsdk12.org](mailto:skbrown@dcsdk12.org). School Choice Fair was very successful, including a full parking lot at the DC Fairgrounds. DAC will continue to advertise and promote the Parent U classes and the community liaison role. There is a special class on the SPED model phase in at 7 pm, Thursday, 12/10 as a reaction to the interest in this topic.

## **District UIP/ Unified Improvement Plan Report** (Matt Reynolds, district System Performance Officer)

This is the first year of changing the tests from TCAP to PARCC and the results will be distributed (via their website) from the CO DOE on 12/11 to the districts. The districts will then send out individual results, via mail, to parents shortly afterwards (required). Thus, any forward accountability is on hold during this transition year and district UIPs are not possible to change and only modify as needed. As for next year and beyond, the state has not yet specified requirements, including which specific grades of test takers as many upper grade students are opting out of these tests. The current validity rate needed is 95% and the participation rate is less than that. Districts were not accountable for any opt out situations this past year. Finally, the test is different than past tests including only a 30% pass rate, designed that way on purpose. There are other tests which show growth (e.g. MAPS). Also, on the same day as our meeting, there was federal legislation passed which will change the No Child Left Behind program. Additional discussion focused on future measurements such as Portfolio vs. traditional test based results.

Questions:

- How do SACs respond to the new data? Do your best considering the circumstances.
- Will this affect the designation of DCSD Schools with Distinction? No. All designations are frozen this year.
- The UIP will again be on the DAC agenda in May with updates and discussion for going forward.
- What about the fact that DCSD only has an 89% graduation rate? Consider the fact that there are factors associated with that percentage including graduating in 5 or 6 years, unable to find students who have moved, etc. That is not the “true” graduation rate for our students. Additional information about that percentage is available.

#### Budget Priorities Overview (Scott Smith, district Director of Budget)

Enrollment projects completed by winter break to give principals more time. Then the SBB by 2/5/16. The district is sending out budget information on January 22. They are asking for this information to be returned by February 5. The DAC is piggy-backing on this process. More information will follow from the DAC.

Discussion followed about how state government has more general / property tax revenue this budget year but DCSD will not get it proportional share of that increased revenue because of the current formula / School Finance Act. This year, projected increases are about \$103/ student or \$13.3 million total. Last year, it was \$256/ student or \$\$5.6 million total. Some SACs will discuss the budget priorities via email to SAC members as they will not meet during the specified time. SACs have a statutory obligation to the principals for recommendations and discussion. Finally, the schools may not see all of the increase, depending upon overall district needs. DAC will address budgets at the February Forum. It will additionally be on the DAC agenda at the April meeting.

#### Questions:

- Will DCSD get a share of pot tax revenue? No, for building new schools and funding and only need based.
- Can parents write grants for school funds? Yes.
- New district policy about students returning mid-year to their feeder schools and thus, funding will now follow. Yes. Additionally, any student transferring to a different charter school can also receive the funding. The monies will not be in the current budget but the school will get it the following September.
- Future employee surveys – suggest adding DAC member/s to committee to create any survey.
- Suggest reviewing discretionary vs. non-discretionary funding categories at the district level going forward for better allocation at the site levels.
- Yes, only two weeks and not three this year after funding increases are announced to create budgets.
- Please have the DAC get involved in the spring for these issues (mentioned above) next year.
- Yes, there are budget vs. actuals with newer teachers getting lower salaries but overall, using an average teacher

salary is the best process without too many variables all the time. (Average used is \$54,000 + 35% benefits). Suggest giving “loans” for projects at site level.

- What to do if a feeder school is at capacity and a group of students wants to return in January? Other options – look at other local schools with capacity, online, etc.
- Carryover funds – all schools can have them. Discussion about ways schools can use the money.
- PTO monies are not part of discretionary/ carryover school funds.
- There are separate monies for Highly Impacted Funding from the district and they are requested by a school.
- DAC has created a budget sub-committee that will formulate budget priority recommendations as mandated by statute, including results submitted by all individual schools and information from the forum.
- Kathy Brown suggested that anyone call email the BOE members about ideas and feedback. The email addresses are on the district website.
- Steve Cook addresses the fact that all capital improvement needs are addressed and fixed as needed. Yes, tell your principal to submit requests.

### **Open Issues & Action Items**

Changes in the By-laws for SAC liaisons.

Jean Medberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Matt Rogers seconding, all in favor, no opposed. -

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Link to December DAC meeting agenda:

<https://www.dcsdk12.org/sites/default/files/boardofeducation/districtaccountabilitycommittee/2015-2016AgendaMeetingMinutes/DAC%2012.08.2015.pdf>