

Policy AE/AE-R

Regulations for District and School
Accountability Committees

Suggested Revisions from
the District Accountability Committee



BOULDER VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

District & School Accountability Committees

- Mandated and minimally defined by state statute
- Collaborative thought partners in systems of accountability
- Opportunity for diverse voices and perspectives within schools to be heard
- Experience shows SAC/DAC can provide valuable input at both school and district levels
 - The BVSD DAC is functioning well at present
 - BVSD SAC's have varying degrees of functionality
- Goal in revising policy was to meet state statute while providing clarity of mission for these committees so they are most useful to district, school and community needs.



Policy Scope

Policy AE - Commitment to Accountability Program

- Establishes process for creating SACs & the DAC
- Points to state statute as source of powers and duties
- Establishes that all SAC and DAC meetings are open to the public
- Establishes how meeting notices are publicly posted

Policy AE-R - Regulation of Policy AE

- Existing BVSD Policy Outlines:
 - Rules for membership:
 - Membership minimums
 - Representation
 - Terms
 - Removal of Membership
 - DAC and SAC members will be provided with “a copy of state statutes and rules setting forth powers and duties.”



Process & Timeline

2019

- ✓ Reviewed policies AE & AE-R from BVSD and other CO school districts
- ✓ Identified gaps between State Statute, CASB example policy, BVSD policy & current practice
- ✓ Identified opportunities for revision

2020

- ✓ Presented provisional high-level approach to revision & collected feedback from DAC on January 7, 2020
- ✓ Documented rationale for, and suggested language in, policy revisions
- ✓ 93% of DAC members voted to approve changes on April 7, 2020



Policy AE - Suggested Revisions

- Allow for elections and appointment of SAC and DAC members
 - Each local school board shall appoint or create a process for the election of a district accountability committee (CRS 22-11-301)
 - The school board shall determine the actual number of members on the school accountability committee and the method of selecting members (CRS 22-11-401)
- SAC Meeting Notices - be more inclusive using online communications
 - Require meeting notices to be posted **by** the school (rather than **in** the school)
 - Many parents do not regularly visit school buildings
 - Most parental communication now occurs digitally (e.g. email, text message)
 - Establish a 1-week minimum requirement for publication of meeting notices
 - Allows parents, especially working parents, more time to schedule and plan for meeting



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Purpose Statement

Add Purpose Statements

- Clearly state committee purpose
 - Aligned with statute
 - Makes the policy more user friendly
 - Differentiates DAC & SAC from other volunteer groups
- Emphasize the independent and interrelated connection points between SAC, school leadership, DAC, district leadership & the Board of Education
- Define mechanisms to execute purpose throughout the policy
 - Rationale: empowered accountability committees are better able to engage parents with schools
- Many school districts include a purpose statement within policy AE-R



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Purpose Statement

Key Aspects of Proposed Purpose Statements

- Promote effective accountability by gathering and disseminating information
- Ensure transparency within district
- Meaningful consultation in performance and improvement planning
- Timely evaluation of district and school performance
- Facilitate free flow of information across school, district, and community levels
- Maintain autonomy to independently engage parents, school leadership and staff, district leadership and staff, and the Board of Education to make recommendations on district priorities within its scope



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Membership



Membership Revisions

- Eliminated redundancies
- Reorganized for clarity
- Created “Note 1” to address eligibility of SAC & DAC members
- Moved housekeeping-type items to bylaws
 - removal of members
 - vacancies



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Membership

DAC Membership

- Established SAC *nominations/elections* as the method of selecting DAC Representatives
 - Existing policy states the Board will *determine* DAC membership, which isn't practiced
 - SAC selections ensure each school is represented in membership
- Established clear deadlines for membership slates
 - DAC members will be nominated by each SAC and identified by May 31
 - Policy states Board of Education will approve the DAC membership slate in September



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Membership

SAC Membership

- Clarified that requirements noted in CRS 22-1-401
 - Every BVSD school, including charters must establish a SAC with a minimum of 7 members
 - Emphasized that parents must exceed other represented groups
- Aligned definition of a community member with that stated DAC
- Encourage schools to broaden participation of SAC to involve diversity of school populations
- Established elections as the *preferred* method of selecting SAC Members
- Increased term lengths to 2 years



AE-R Suggested Revisions - Powers & Duties

Powers and Duties

- Make statutory responsibilities visible and transparent DAC/SAC in policy
 - Rationale:
 - Provides another layer of clarity
 - School and district leaders look for guidance in BVSD Policy
 - Common practice for other school districts
- Access to Information, Written Recommendations & Feedback Loops
 - Necessary for DAC/SAC to carry out their statutory responsibilities
 - Documentation improves transition of institutional knowledge
 - Feedback on how recommendations are/not used can help guide future thinking
- Increase transparency via electronic communication and digital materials
 - Rationale: need to reinforce institutional knowledge; parents have different preferred modes of communication; need for materials distributed online

AE-R Suggested Revisions - Powers & Duties

DAC Powers & Duties

- Included a list of all statutory powers/duties with mechanism for execution
- Bylaw creation and adoption
- Election of DAC Representative as Chair/co-chair with option for additional officers
- Transfer of institutional knowledge

SAC Powers & Duties

- Included a list of all statutory powers/duties with mechanism for execution
- Bylaw creation and adoption
- Election of a parent Chair/co-chair with option for additional officers
- Establishment of meeting schedule
- Nomination of DAC Members
- Transfer of institutional knowledge

AE-R Suggested Revision - Clarity



- Directly reference related statutes & policies
 - Allows stakeholders to quickly find more detailed source information
 - Provides an additional level of clarity
 - Improves communication channels - i.e. referencing policy KE-R
- Aligned language between sections
- Reorganized policy language
- Greater clarity around the purpose & responsibilities of SACs/DAC will result in increased awareness & participation, and positively impact all schools & the district as a whole.

