

# District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



May 2020

## UPCOMING DATES:

- **May 14, 2020**  
**6:00—8:00pm**  
**Full DAC**  
**meeting**  
**Web Ex**

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## Welcome

The 2019-2020 academic year is almost at a close and we are a just few weeks away before summer break. The last quarter of the school year we have been in unprecedented times for schools. Distance learning has made each of us become more flexible and give more grace. Our fifth graders, eighth graders, and seniors are mourning activities they have lost because of COVID-19 as they transition to another part of the life journey. Video conferencing is becoming a norm. We are all more thankful for our schools and everyone who works there.

The DAC is pressing on. We are in the process of wrapping up our charges and responsibilities for the year. In the coming weeks, the DAC and its subcommittees will look at the membership roster for 2020-21 and prepare end of the year reports to the Board of Education (BOE). The DAC is actively seeking new volunteers (parents, community members, and staff) to serve on its committees.

During this past academic year, some of DAC's successful accomplishments include:

- Recruited and trained School Accountability Committee (SAC) members.
- Hosted 3 SAC Training Sessions with relevant and insightful topics to better prepare SAC members to fulfill their charges at their respective schools.
- Studied and prepared a report on the mid-year Budget Modification Requests (BMRs).
- Analyzed and tracked quarterly Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) results.
- Reviewed and gave feedback on the District Improvement Plan.
- Published comprehensive monthly DAC newsletters.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee still has work to complete because of the Colorado Legislature not being in session due to COVID-19. Once the state has adopted a School Finance Act and State Budget their work can continue. Thank you to this subcommittee for adapting during this time.

I would like to thank all the volunteers across our district! So much valuable work would not be completed without you. You are appreciated. Thank you for working to empower all of our students.

On behalf of the DAC, I congratulate the resilient 2020 graduates and wish you the very best in your next adventure. This is a year none of us will ever forget. I also wish the students, parents, and staff a wonderful summer!

Regards,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee

## News & Notes

### **Colorado Stories of Promising Practices:**



This is a Colorado Department of Education (CDE) series of videos and stories that highlight schools and districts that have implemented new strategies to improve student outcomes, developed exemplary practices and validated their results through data and other verifiable demonstrations of student performance. Featuring work in five key areas, these stories highlight the innovative practices in schools and districts across the state to meet four goals in CDE's strategic plan:

- Third graders will meet or exceed expectations in English Language Arts
- Schools needing support and academic improvement will raise and maintain their performance
- Students will earn a postsecondary credential, degree or certificate after high school
- Underserved students will achieve academic expectations

For informative and valuable information, check out the series at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/promisingpractices>

**“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish”**

*John Quincy Adams*

### **Parent and Family Resources from Colorado Department of Education (CDE):**

- Check out the long list of education oriented resources for Colorado parents available on the CDE website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents> .
- Most of these sources are written especially for parents to enhance their understanding of the Colorado public education system and also provide excellent tips for supporting their child. One excellent example is Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork (TIPS) which is a resource to encourage teachers and families to work together for student learning. TIPS Interactive Homework [http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/tips\\_interactive\\_homework](http://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/tips_interactive_homework) is an example of a high impact Family-School-Community Partnering strategy. Be sure to check it out!
- With all D11 schools operating in Distance Learning mode, encourage parents/guardians to make use of the CDE resources for learning at home – best practices for families located at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/learningathome/bestpracticesfamilies>

## News & Notes Continued

### Meal Distribution Information

We are continuing to provide breakfast and lunch combined grab-and-go bags.

**Monday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Free for all children ages 1-18 years.**



School Locations: Doherty, Russell, Mitchell, RJWAC, North, Mann, Swigert, Coronado, West, Sabin, Jackson, Adams, Monroe, and Rogers.

Bus Stop Satellite Locations:

- 85 Sunflower Rd (The Northwest corner of Sunflower Rd. and N. Cascade Ave)
- Rosemont at Shadow Mountain Apartments, 220 Shadow Ridge Grove
- Northwest corner of the parking lot at VanTeylingen & N. Carefree Dr. (3400 N. Carefree Drive)
- The Springs Mobile Home Park (In front of the clubhouse within the mobile home park), 1095 Western Dr
- A-1 Mobile Village (In front of the mobile home park office by the mailboxes), 1025 Garner St
- Canyon Ridge Mobile Home Park, 5150 Airport Rd.
- Canterbury Mobile Home Park, 3020 S. Powers
- Meadow Mobile Home Park, 4825 Astrozon Blvd

CDE has approved that emergency grab n' go meals will be provided through June 30, 2020.

### Distance Learning—Social/Emotional Resources for Staff & Parents

The District 11 website, under Distance Learning/Social/Emotional Resources for Staff and Families has some excellent information for helping staff and families navigate distance learning, and the unique times we are living in. Two of the resources are PowerPoint presentations that can be found at the links below:

#### **Thriving Your Way Through Stress & Anxiety**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/5174/Stress%20and%20Anxiety%20D11%202020.pdf>

#### **Grieving what Was... Accepting What is ...**

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/5174/Grieving%20the%20Loss%20of%20Control.pdf>

## News & Notes (Continued)

### **Summer Enrichment Series for 2020 (Cancelled):**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Summer Enrichment Series for 2020 had to be cancelled. Check [www.d11.org/ses](http://www.d11.org/ses) for more information.

### **DAC Membership for the 2020-2021 School Year**

The District 11 Accountability Committee (DAC) and Subcommittees are actively seeking volunteers for several key positions for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact Joseph Mezzofante, Chair of the DAC Membership Subcommittee at [mezzofantej@gmail.com](mailto:mezzofantej@gmail.com) or Trudy Tool at [toolte@d11.org](mailto:toolte@d11.org), DAC administrative support, if you are interested in or would like more information about joining the DAC or any of three subcommittees (Accreditation, Budget, Training and SAC Support Subcommittee).

The DAC will be having a virtual DAC Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2020

### **Congratulations to the 2020 High School Graduates!**

Virtual graduations will air during the regularly scheduled May graduation dates:

5/ 19 Doherty HS 9am, Coronado HS 3pm

5/ 20 Mitchell HS 9am, Palmer HS 3pm

Alternative High Schools:

5/21 Odyssey ECCO 9am, Bijou 1pm

5/22 Achieve 9am, Tesla 1pm

6/4 Adult Education 7pm

In addition, the El Paso County Commissioners unanimously approved a variance request for in-person high school graduations. El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) and schools partnered to find an innovative solution to celebrate high school graduations, while putting measures in place to keep everyone safe. D11 will begin drafting plans to hold in-person graduation ceremonies at Garry Berry Stadium on the tentative dates of July 20-24. Ceremony plans will be evaluated based on specific criteria for approval by El Paso County Public Health. Additional communication in regard to this plan will be forthcoming at a later date.

## SAC News

### Virtual SAC Meetings

With most of May still to go, we hope you have been able to work with your principal to conduct virtual SAC meetings at the regular date and time using District's WebEx video conferencing system. All principals are trained in the use of the system for conducting video conferences, sharing files and data during the conference, etc. The DAC, DAC Accreditation Subcommittee, District Policy Subcommittee and many SACs are using this conferencing system very successfully to continue operations with the schools physically closed.

### **Election of New SAC Officers and early DAC support:**

- ◇ If not already done in April, May is the month to elect, or be thinking about election of officers for the coming school year as outlined in AE-R-2, School Accountability Committees.
- ◇ If you are a new SAC Chair and would like some early training/support over the summer please contact Trudy Tool at [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org) and she will connect you with the appropriate DAC resources.

### **Unified School Improvement Plan (USIP) Timelines:**

- All schools: Final School Performance Frameworks (SPFs) for the 18-19 school year and USIPs for the 19-20 year are posted on the CDE website for public access. Check your school's improvement plan for 19-20 out at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/performance> to make sure the information is correct and current.
- Looking forward to the 20-21 School Year: In mid to late May schools are traditionally expected to assess their academic strengths and weaknesses based on end of year Galileo K-12 test results and supporting data and develop a preliminary "one page USIP" for the 20 – 21 school year. As SACs, ask your principal to be included in this process as part of your USIP role.
- The goal is to have the 20 – 21 USIP essentially complete soon after the start of the school year. This will be an especially challenging year since CMAS PSAT and SAT tests all were cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, you should be able to get good trend data from the Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) 1 -3 test results and assessment of results on completing Major Strategies and Actions in your USIP.
- For good background information on how to review the results of the past year and look ahead to 20-21 (although you will have to work with your principal to figure out how to do this virtually) check out the approaches used in the June 5-6, 2019 D11 ACT School Step Back and Plan Ahead work shop.
- The presentation for this event is available at: <https://www.d11.org/Page/6829>

### **SAC Training Sessions**

**SAC Training Session for September 2020:** Planning is underway for the 20-21 school year. The first SAC training session is tentatively scheduled for Thursday Sep 24<sup>th</sup> at Tesla 6:00 – 8:00 PM. We are looking at a multi-presentation format. One session will be "SAC 101" for new SAC chairs and members but the remaining presentations will be on important topics relevant to the new school year, e.g. USIP development. You will want to bring multiple SAC members to be sure to cover all important topics.

## Good Things Happening in the District

### District

- Adams ES, Stratton ES, Q. Palmer ES, Jenkins MS, Monroe ES and Wilson ES were recognized as Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase Schools.

### Columbia Es

Approximately 20 families participated in Columbia's first virtual Town Hall Meeting on April 22nd. The school received feedback from the families as to how they felt distance learning was going. They also asked for suggestions on how things could be improved. The responses were very positive.

### Coronado HS

- **Gage Broyles** and his team: **Daylan Montgomery, Daniel Hudgens, and Jaden Hansen** created a narrated Minecraft tour of Coronado for their capstone project in Mr. Hartman's English class.
- The main goal of a capstone project and presentation is to challenge a student to carry out significant research over an extended period to obtain a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Students choose an approved topic of interest with individualized program of study. The final presentation exhibits creativity and ideas and give them the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and critical thinking skills gained in class. Staff judges will score all senior presentations via Webex through May 8, 2020.

### Doherty HS

Skills USA Region V winners—would have competed in April at the state Skills USA competition in hopes of qualifying for Nationals in Louisville, KY. Congrats, Spartans!!

- Automotive Service Technology:
  - ♦ 1st place Joey Berry
  - ♦ 2nd place Evan Carney
- Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair:
  - ♦ 2nd place Isaac Courtright
- Job Demonstration Open:
  - ♦ 1st place Gage Carlton
- Prepared Speech:
  - ♦ 1st place Chay Neumeyer

### Odyssey Early College & Career Pathways

- Fifteen graduates will be earning Associate Degrees, along with their High School Diploma

### Palmer HS

Valedictorian Wesley Wright was selected for the Gazette's Best & Brightest Scholarship. He is one of 20 HS seniors in the Pikes Peak Region receiving the annual award. He is bound for Rice University in Houston, TX.