

SCHOOL DISTRICT

UPCOMING DATES:

- October 8, 2019, Training & SAC Support Meeting, Volunteer Services Conference Room, 5:30—7:00pm
- October 9, 2019, DAC Membership/Charges will go to the Board as a consent item, Administration Building, 6:30pm
- October 17, 2019, Full DAC Meeting, Tesla Building, 6:00—8:00pm
- November 7, 2019, SAC Training, Tesla Building, 6:00—8:00pm

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District Accountability (DAC) October Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019



Welcome

The first month of the academic year has been very busy and productive for the DAC. We needed to fill several positions on our DAC and our DAC subcommittees. The DAC membership subcommittee received an overwhelming response from new volunteers to fill these positions. We are thankful so many people want to participate at the district level. We appreciate the time commitment all of our volunteers make.

The DAC had the pleasure of hosting the first of four SAC Training Sessions on September 26. The DAC was excited to meet and exchange information with so many SAC and administration representatives from D11 schools including several of our charter schools. We are in the process of analyzing your feedback and suggestions to better advance the communication between us. At our next session, Dr. Thomas will be giving us more information about new SAC responsibilities. We look forward to seeing more schools participate at our next SAC training session on November 7th.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee, in co-ordination with District personnel and full DAC, has been reviewing District and School Performance Frameworks (SPFs and DPF), 2018-19 state mandated test results, and accreditation ratings of every D11 school. Three D11 schools will file a "Request to Reconsider" regarding their Accreditation ratings. Six D11 schools are recommended to receive an Accreditation rating of Performance with Distinction from the district for posting a SPF > 80.0 %. The committee also worked on giving input for the three Priority Improvement and one Turnaround schools USIPs (School Improvement Plans).

The DAC Budget Subcommittee had its first meeting on September 10, 2019. The subcommittee focused on developing its annual charges and educating new members. In addition to its usual charges, the subcommittee expressed an interest in reviewing certain D11 academic programs (GT and GMP, AVID, ST Math, and IB as time permits).

We are continuing on our mission to open channels of communication between all District stakeholders. We thank you for your support and request your input/feedback. If you have material that can add value to this newsletter, please share it with us. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns regarding this newsletter or your responsibilities as a SAC.

Sincerely,

Velvet Stepanek

Chair-District Accountability Committee

News & Notes



“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”
DeAnn Hollis

Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance (PPBEA) – open for business:

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SACs TAKE NOTE:

- School District 11 is part of a new community of schools work-based learning initiative called the Pikes Peak Business & Education Alliance (PPBEA). PPBEA’s mission is to “connect students’ talents, interests and aptitudes to the economic landscape.” PPBEA primarily serves as liaison between our community of K-12 schools and our area business partners while creating an environment where our region can “grow its own talent”. PPBEA recently launched its new “MARKETPLACE” website <https://ppbea.org/> where teachers, classrooms and students connect and participate in work-based learning opportunities sponsored by our community’s businesses.
- The PPBEA has partnered with more than 100 local businesses that have sponsored over 200 work-based learning opportunities in hundreds of occupational areas and dozens of career pathways. They currently have room for nearly 6,000 students to participate! Work-based learning activities include career information sessions, class presentations delivered by industry professionals, site tours/field trips, job shadows and informational interviews, internships, and youth apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeships.

Board Candidate Election



On November 5, 2019, District 11 will participate in the El Paso County Coordinated Election. There are four Board of Education Director seats up for election. Ballot packets will be mailed to each active eligible voter by no later than October 18, 2019. There are eight (8) candidates running in our District. For information on the Board candidates go to the following link:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/12071>

Opportunities for Involvement

Facilities Advisory Committee

~Looking for citizens (parent/community) for this committee~

The charge of the committee is as follows:

1. Understand the capabilities and conditions of our existing facilities.
2. Identify shortfalls and emerging needs.
3. Fairly balance competing requirements.
4. Provide input to the MLO Oversight Committee and the Board of Education regarding recommended changes to the Capital Plan as needed.
5. Assist the District with Prioritization of Capital Projects.
6. Align Capital Investments in support of the District's Strategic Plan.
7. Make recommendations regarding priorities and timing of specific improvements.



This committee is absolutely critical to the “redevelopment” of the D11 infrastructure. This committee will literally be making recommendations about the construction/modification/replacement of D11 schools.

This is a **“MUST CHECK IT OUT”** site for Middle and High School SACs, staff, parents and students!!!

View Updated Statewide Admissions GPA and Test Score Ranges (from CDE)

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SACs TAKE NOTE:



- [The GPA and Test Score one-pager \(PDF\)](#) that provides mid-50th percentile ranges of admitted students at all Colorado public four-year institutions has been updated with Fall 2018 admission data and was [posted to the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Admission website](#).
- This document can be used as a quick guide to admission standards at Colorado institutions. The one-pager should be used in conjunction with course and career planning advising.



What do you want Colorado Springs School District 11 to offer in the future? How can D11 continue to Inspire Every Mind with innovative programming, while meeting the needs of all? You will have a voice in these topics at the D11 October **World Cafés** to help shape the District 11 academic plan!

Thursday, October 10

Urbanites, 506 Moreno Ave.
6:30-8 p.m.

Saturday, October 12

Holmes Middle School, 2455 Mesa Road
9:30-11 a.m.

Monday, October 14

East Library, Community Room, 5550 N. Union Blvd.
2:30-4 p.m.

Please register at this link for the date and location you plan to attend:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D11AcademicPlan>



We dare to empower the whole student to profoundly impact our world.



Inspire every mind.

Recruiting
Parents/
Guardians

*“The best way to
find yourself is to
lose yourself in the
service of others.”*

Gandhi

A **sample letter** from Joseph Mezzofante (DAC Vice Chair/Membership Chair) for Principals to send out to help with recruiting parents/guardians for their SAC committees.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I know your child’s education is important to you. For that reason, I would like to make you aware that your school has a School Accountability Committee (SAC). Do not fear the title. It isn’t a formal meeting that requires a deep understanding. Look at the SAC as an opportunity to see what your school is doing and providing feedback.

Depending on the school, SACs can meet between once a month to once a semester. At max, you are looking at up to 2 hours a month. There is no cost to attend. You simply find out the SAC schedule from your school and show up.

SAC meetings are rather simple. You get to see the school’s budget, attendance and discipline data, hear about new programs, and discuss upcoming events. If you want to be involved in your school but find time to be a limiting factor, your time will be wisely spent by merely investing a couple hours in your local SAC.

The first time I went to a SAC, I felt out of place until the meeting started. Once I saw how simple it was, I quickly became involved. You learn about things the school is doing that you wouldn’t otherwise know. You also get to meet fellow parents. I am now on my 5th year of being a member of the Odyssey ECCO SAC. It was time well invested.

If your school doesn’t have a well-established SAC, there is help. The district has SAC training to help teach you the inner workings of things like how a budget should look or what programs are out there that may assist your school. The first SAC training was held at 2560 International Circle on Thursday, September 26 at 6PM. The DAC Training and SAC Support Committee is also another tool to help get your SAC off to a good start.

If you have any questions, please ask. If you want to be connected to the DAC Training and SAC Support Committee, just let me know. Your education is something that stays with you. As a parent, you play a major part in the education your child receives. I can be contacted via e-mail at mezzofantej@gmail.com or via text/phone at (719) 641-5351. If you can, please text rather than call. There are times I can’t answer my phone.

Joseph Mezzofante
DAC Vice Chair/Membership Subcommittee Chair
(719) 641-5351

SAC News & Updates (Continued)

SAC Meeting Agenda Planning

- Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics for the month that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for the October SAC meeting;
 - * Train SAC on USIP elements (as needed) – review/finalize USIP. [Tips: For comparison, USIPs for 2018-2019 for individual schools are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/code/accountability-performancesnapshot>. Click on the lower right of the screen for the Unified Improvement Plan in the display for your school. Helpful background information on the USIP requirements and processes for the 19-20 school year is available from CDE at http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/uiip_general_resources
 - * Review/discuss School Readiness plan for kindergarten and READ Act implementation, funding, and student status/results (ES only). [Note: Senate Bill 19-199, passed earlier this year, made significant changes to the READ Act (See <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/sb19199updates>) Ask your principal how this has changed the school's approach to meeting READ Act requirements].
 - * Review school focus on Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) and new graduation requirements approved by D-11 Board of Ed. in spring 2016 (MS & HS only)
 - * Review Galileo K-12 first quarter Aligned District Benchmark results (if available) and compare against USIP targets
 - * Review Power BI Early Warning System data for the school collected since the start of school in collaboration with the principal and identify areas of concern in academics, discipline and attendance.

SAC News & Updates (Continued)



"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."



JANE D. HULL

www.coloradoparentingmatters.org

SAC Training—September 26, 2019



The first SAC Training of the 2019-2020 school year took place on September 26, 2019. We want to thank all of the school SACs who attended and for the great support from Administration presenters/personnel. We had an excellent turn out—a total of 75 attendees representing 36 schools. You can access the SAC Hand-outs from this training at:

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Training%20Hand-outs%209-26-19.pdf>

A key highlight of the event was the opening welcome video by Supt. Dr. Michael Thomas in which he presented an overview of his thoughts on increasing SAC involvement in the school budget processes, the upcoming Academic Achievement Plan and the school components of the Facilities Master Plan. This six minute video would be excellent to show at October SAC meetings and is available here: <https://www.d11.org/DAC>

SAC Training Session Thursday, November 7, 2019

The next SAC Training Session will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2019. We are planning on presenting some exciting/informative material in this training, including an in-person update from Dr. Thomas to further lay out his plans for greater SAC involvement with school budgets and other aspects of the Strategic Plan. More information will follow soon. **SAVE THE DATE**

Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs

- ◆ Oct 7, 2019: Galileo K-12 Aligned District Benchmark testing begins for ELA and Math
- ◆ Oct 9, 2019: Board of Education Public Hearing and Non-Action on USIPs for Turnaround and Priority Improvement schools
- ◆ Nov 7, 2019: Second 2019 SAC Training Session 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla bldg.
- ◆ Nov 15, 2019: USIPs completed for all schools

Good Things Happening in the District

There are so many good things happening in the District!

Below are just a few . . .

District

- October 5th is CityServe Day that is coordinated by CO-SILOVEYOU, a city initiative. CityServe is a no-strings-attached, city-wide day of service where “all are welcome to serve and be served.” The motivation behind this is simple—when a city prospers, so do its people. This year 17 schools in D11 will be served by teams of volunteers. The schools being served are:

Adams ES

Bristol ES

Buena Vista ES

Carver ES

Columbia ES

Edison ES

Fremont ES

Grant ES

Jackson ES

Monroe ES

Penrose ES

Queen Palmer ES

Rudy ES

Trailblazer ES

West ES

Sabin MS

Coronado HS

Volunteer Teams will take on many projects from pulling weeds, moving gravel to small inside projects.

- On September 14, 2019 the “What IF . . . Festival of Innovation and Imagination” took place in downtown Colorado Springs. This festival celebrates and show cases lifelong learning by showcasing creativity and innovation through interactive presentations, hand-on demonstrations, exhibits and performances. District 11 had a booth where kids could make ceramic pots, Penrose ES had a booth about Project Based Learning (PBL), and Coronado HS Robotics team had a booth with several of their robots and students on their team.



Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

Coronado HS

About 350 young musicians are accepted by audition every year to participate in one of eight programs with The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony. Seven (7) students from Coronado HS were selected this year. They are:



Nathaniel Cuccaro, Selah Border, Benjamin Turner, Alexander Hollingsworth, Joseph Robinson, Ashton Oaks and Quinn Williams. Congratulations! The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony is a comprehensive instrumental music program in our region.

Howbert ES

Howbert's PTO will hold its fundraiser (6th year) promoting healthy living and school spirit on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. The fundraiser, a Walk-A-Thon will be held at Howbert ES, 1023 N. 31st St, from 8:45—9:30am. Approximately 300 students, staff, parents and community members will participate by walking continuously around the playground. Funds raised will help support various educational programs at the school.



Penrose ES

Penrose ES was highlighted in the magazine "Principal" in the September/October 2019 issue for their work with Project Based Learning. Principal Tamara Sobin wanted to inspire teachers to address 21st century skills and project-based learning. It started by asking "What does creativity look like? The teachers took the time and co-developed a rubric. Gretchen Bitner, former PBL co-ordinator, found that the teachers used more creative teaching strategies as the students learned how to drive projects themselves by inventing new ways to explore and assess their work.

