

## COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEVEN

Mr. Michael Thomas, Superintendent

District Accountability Committee (DAC)

DAC Website: <http://www.d11.org/dac>

### DAC Meeting Notes

August 16, 2018

#### **Members In attendance:**

Parth Melpakam, Chair, Nila Rickard, Cass Daley, Velvet Stepanek, Desiree Leonard, Staci Ruddy, Carl Schueler, Joseph Mezzofante, Esther Smith, Carla Scott, Amanda Hawkins, LynDel Randesh, Aaron Ford, Chris Kilroy, Carlos Perez, Cynthe Winebrenner, Lyman Kaiser, Stacy Fisher, Sally Sue Coddington, Chyrese Exline, Victoria Henderson, Jan Rennie, Ed Plute, Trudy Tool, LouAnn Dekleva. Guests: Michael Thomas, Phoebe Bailey, Jeremy Koselak, Janeen Demi-Smith, John Keane, Tamara Sobin, Gretchen Bitner, Toni Schone

#### **Welcome – Dr. Parth Melpakam, DAC Chair**

The regular meeting of the DAC Committee was called to order at 6:00pm by Dr. Parth Melpakam, Chair. Dr. Melpakam welcomed everyone in attendance. Dr. Melpakam spoke about the upcoming school year and the role of the DAC, including discussing Policy AE-R-1. Dr. Melpakam introduced Mr. Michael Thomas, Superintendent

#### **District 11 Direction & Vision – Mr. Michael Thomas, Superintendent**

- Mr. Thomas shared that he is excited to join District 11. His first official day was July 1, 2018. He was excited for the first day of school as students drive everything he does. He looks at everything through a parent lens.
- He discussed his background, which included Elementary Principal, Junior High Principal, Area Supervisor and Chief of Academics.
- He indicated that the reception from District 11 has been very positive and he is impressed with the staff, leadership, Board and the students.
- Going forward he would like to focus on building strong relationships with parents as well as community. He believes we should not leave anything to chance with our kids.
- Mr. Thomas believes data is a strong ally and looks forward to working with the DAC as we look at the data.
- Listen & Learn talks have been scheduled, as he wants to hear from staff and the community.
- A year from now he anticipates launching a new strategic plan. Mr. Thomas shared with the committee that the DAC will play a significant role in the development of the new strategic plan.

Dr. Melpakam thanked Mr. Thomas for sharing his experience and vision he has for District 11. Dr. Melpakam expressed that the DAC is looking forward to working with him and his office in the coming months.

### **Appointment of Subcommittee Chairs – Dr. Parth Melpakam**

- There are three subcommittee chairs that need to be approved by the DAC and officially appointed by the DAC Chair.
  - Accreditation Subcommittee Chair –
    - There was only one interested volunteer for this subcommittee, Dr. Ed Plute.
    - Mr. Lyman Kaiser made the motion to approve Dr. Plute as the Chair, it was seconded by Mr. Joseph Mezzafante.
    - A vote was taken from the DAC members – the result was all in favor.
  - Budget Subcommittee Chair –
    - We had anticipated having two candidates for this position, but only received one bio from Jan Rennie. Only Jan Rennie was present at the DAC meeting and restated her interest to chair that subcommittee.
    - Mrs. Rennie discussed her experience/bio with the committee.
    - Mr. Carl Schueler made the motion to approve Mrs. Rennie as the Chair, it was seconded by Mr. Lyman Kaiser.
    - A vote was taken from the DAC members – the result was all in favor.
  - Training & SAC Support Chair –
    - There was only one interested volunteer for this subcommittee, Mr. Lyman Kaiser.
    - Mr. Joseph Mezzafante made the motion to approve Mr. Kaiser as the Chair, it was seconded by Mrs. Jan Rennie.
    - A vote was taken from the DAC members – the result was all in favor.

### **Review of District Diagnostics – CDE Report – Mr. Jeremy Koselak**

- Forty district personnel were surveyed for this district diagnostic – On April 13, 2018, upon the district’s request, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) integrated their school turnaround team and MTSS team to interview the 40 district personnel surveyed. The personnel surveyed included:
  - All members of executive cabinet
  - BOE president
  - DAC members
  - CEA leaders

- 4 principals
- Representatives from ICSS, EDSS, IT and the Achieve Team. The team collected artifacts and based the diagnostic on observations across the district and school sites
- A communication plan has been developed to share the report (both the executive summary and the report in its entirety)
- Summary of Recommendations include:
  - #1 Prioritized Strategic Planning
  - #2 Progress Monitoring and Accountability
  - #3 Tiered Supports for Schools
 (See handout for details)
- Questions/Feedback from DAC
  - Observation – Looks basically standard for CDE. What’s different about it? Looks the same as what we have already been doing.
  - Response – The strength will be in the strategic plan moving forward. That needs to be done internally. We’ll need to have conversations about why we are losing students. The strategic plan will get into the weeds of things.
  - Observation – This can be used to help develop USIPS and UDIP.
  - Observation – We will need to keep in mind alternative schools regarding opt-in and opt-out.
  - Response – We are a school district – not a district of schools. There should be core academic programs that you can get at any school.

**Overview of 2018 CMAS Data – Dr. Janeen Demi-Smith**

- Dr. Demi – Smith presented documents that contained:
  - 2018 PARCC Report: Average Scale Score
  - CMAS Growth – Access schoolview.org on the CDE website to view resources to help you understand growth
  - District Performance Framework contains three categories:
    - Academic Achievement
    - Academic Growth
    - Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness
 (See handouts for details)
  - Individual student score reports should be going out to schools shortly, parents can access this information on parent connect right now

**Training & SAC Support Subcommittee Report – Lyman Kaiser**

- Had the first meeting on August 7, 2018
- The first SAC Training is scheduled for September 13, 2018

- Topics will include:
  - Superintendent Thomas – Welcome and Vision
  - 5 Training topics
    - SAC 101
    - ACT Development/UIP
    - Galileo K-12 – new assessment plan
    - Peachjar/Communication/Volunteers
- A “Save the Date” email will go out on August 20, 2018 - flyers and agendas will be sent at later dates

**Miscellaneous – Dr. Parth Melpakam**

- Agenda planning and suggestions for DAC topics can be emailed to Dr. Melpakam at [parth.melpakam@d11.org](mailto:parth.melpakam@d11.org)
- The DAC will be producing monthly newsletters again this year. Please send topics/good things to Trudy Tool at [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org) by August 24, 2018 for the September Newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

*T & SS Meetings*, September 5, October 3, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1,  
Garden Level Conference Room

*SAC Training*, September 14, November 9, February 1, April 5, Tesla

*DAC Meetings*, September 21, October 19, November 16, January 18, February 15, March 15,  
April 19, May 17, Tesla