

Colorado Springs School District 11
Superintendent Dr. Michael J. Thomas
Division of Business Services
Deputy Superintendent/CFO Glenn E. Gustafson, CPA
Director of Financial Services Laura Hronik, MBA

DAC Budget Subcommittee

Web page: [District Accountability Committee \(DAC\)](#)
Chairman Michael Reyes

Meeting Notes

February 11, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Administration Building Board Room

Members present: Chair Michael Reyes, Vice-Chair Jan Rennie, Clara Hoellerbauer, Amanda Huber, Carl Schueler, Bruce Cole, Donna Ecks, Sandra Park, Ken Pfeil, Jason Rockwood, Trish Nixon

Members absent: Pete Lee, Jenny Courtier, Robert Grossman, Kathy Box, Karin Lindt, Colleen Pearl, Bob Null

Ex-officio members present: Glenn Gustafson, Laura Hronik, and Anna Monroe

Guests: Dr. Parth Melpakam, Sara Miller, Julie Ott, Lyman Kaiser, David Engstrom

The meeting began at 6:00 PM. Chairman Reyes asked the committee to begin by approving the agenda for the evening. Member, Mr. Cole, seconded the motion.

The District 11 Deputy Superintendent Achievement, Learning & Leadership, David Engstrom, was given the floor to give a presentation regarding the AVID program. He stated that he would be giving this presentation in place of the AVID Facilitator. He explained that the district's goals are to provide quality education, consistency in offerings, personal learning, and college, career, and life readiness to all students. The AVID program, he explained, fits this mission. The district is currently in the early stages of developing a new Academic Master Plan that AVID will likely be included in, if the program is continued.

One of the district's main goals is to have a consistent and equitable instructional core, meaning that at the core of instruction for every D11 school and educational program, students are provided the same quality of instruction, along with similar programs to aid in their learning. At this time, some of the district's program offerings are not equitable, meaning that only certain schools or regions of the district have specific program offerings. AVID is one of the programs that is currently not equitable throughout the district. Mr. Engstrom provided maps of the district broken out by elementary, middle, and high schools. This map also colored in the schools that offered AVID, painting a picture of where in D11 students have access to the program. From this map, the committee was able to see that for elementary, AVID is only offered on the Southwest side of the district, for middle, only the Southern part of the district, and for high school, all but one school offers it. The district is looking at how they can improve program equity, whether that be to change instruction at certain schools to make it more uniform, or to offer transportation to certain programs if students choose.

Mr. Engstrom provided the committee a handout that showed the different fund sources that AVID has received funding from in the past to show from where the district pays for the program. This handout did not provide actual data or numbers to show the actual costs of the program. He provided information about how many students AVID is reaching, sharing that there are 4 Elementary schools with 885 students, 4 Middle schools with 227 students, and 406 students at the high schools, as well as some students at the Odyssey campus.

Mr. Engstrom further explained that AVID is offered in a variety of ways with each school using a different method. These include:

1. All In- This is when a school uses AVID strategies throughout their school and in all of their classrooms. All students in the school are impacted in some way by the program.
2. Elective Course- Mainly at the Middle and High school level, AVID is offered as an elective course that students can enroll in.
3. Certain Teachers- Sometimes, teachers will get the trainings for AVID or utilize the workbooks in their classrooms, varying each classroom's instruction.
4. Some Strategies- Some staff use AVID strategies within their school, but it is not consistent and varies on the individual.

AVID is designed to target students that fall in the middle of the group academically. It is also meant to target first-time college students. One of the goals of the district related to AVID is to determine where AVID is impactful, affordable, and where should it be offered? Another goal is to determine how to make it equitable. One of the issues with this that was brought up is that AVID implementation and usage is usually built naturally, meaning that teachers or the school start using AVID, they share their strategies and training with others, and then it spreads through the school. The fire behind it is dependent upon the staff's use and school's implementation, and then that fire can die down overtime.

Because of the lack of quantifiable data related to the program, and the potential changes coming to it with the new Academic Master Plan, the committee decided it would be best to draft concerns and questions related to the program, compile them, and then send them as a recommendation to the folks working in the AMP. The committee voted, and five members thumbed up and there were no objections.

The committee then moved to the other programs on our agenda that we have not yet discussed. This included Summer Enrichment and Concurrent Enrollment. For both programs, there were no updates, and the committee plans to ask the facilitators for these programs to come and present at a later meeting.

The committee also reviewed the results of the spending for the FY18/19 Budget Modifications. Two lists were provided, showing the results for the Mid-Year and Proposed Modifications. The committee was asked if they had any questions about any of these items, and were informed that if they did later on, they could always contact Anna Monroe to get more details.

Chairman Reyes moved to accept the meeting notes from January 14, 2020. Three confirmed members seconded the motion and the notes were approved. They will be posted to the DAC web page on the District 11 website as well as on the subcommittee's Office 365 page.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the administration building boardroom.