

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 11

### UPCOMING DATES:

- **January 7**  
5:30—7:00pm  
T & SS meeting  
Volunteer Services  
Conference Room
- **January 16**  
6:00—8:00pm  
Full DAC meeting  
Tesla, room  
112/113
- **February 6, 2020**  
6:00—8:00pm  
SAC Training  
Tesla, room  
116/129

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# District Accountability (DAC) Newsletter



DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

## Welcome

The District 11 DAC and its subcommittees continue to work diligently and deliberately as we reach the halfway point of the 2019-20 academic year. We are proud as a DAC that every school in District 11 has a School Accountability Committee (SAC). We look forward in continuing to support all SACs. We are also looking forward to supporting our Board of Education (BOE) and its new members. Here are a few highlights on what was accomplished in the month of November.

- The DAC had an important look at the Budget Equity Exercise that will be happening at each school in the January to March timeframe. SACs will be an important part of this exercise. Principals are being trained to have this valuable conversation that incorporates school communities. This exercise is in support of the strategic plan strategy that states, "In pursuit of our mission and mission impacts: we will guarantee an ecosystem of equitable practices to meet the unique needs of all".
- The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee hosted the 2nd SAC Training Session on November 7th, 2019. About 80 SAC members and administration representatives from about 30 D11 schools participated. We had two engaging speakers. Dr. Michael Thomas focused on highlights of how the strategic plan is helping to form the Academic Master Plan. SACs are going to have more involvement for input at the school level. Next, as part of the Family Learning Institute, national motivational speaker, Jeff Veley, discussed resilience education for bullying prevention. The 3rd SAC Training Session is scheduled for February 6, 2020.
- The DAC Budget Subcommittee started the process of reviewing the 2019-20 mid-year budget modification requests. The subcommittee will continue this process in December and provide a comprehensive recommendation to the BOE. The Subcommittee also continued looking at AVID and the Gifted and Talented programs. The findings and recommendations for these programs will be forwarded to the BOE after mid-year budget modifications are completed.
- The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee looked at the READ Act Data from the District with Ms. Christy Feldman. The subcommittee said goodbye to Dr. Ed Plute, as he is retiring and moving out of town. His experience and leadership have been invaluable. Jane Tucker will take over heading this subcommittee.

On behalf of everyone at the DAC, I wish you a safe and joyous holiday season!

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee



*"Help one  
another: there's  
no time like the  
present and no  
present like the  
time".  
James Durst*

## News & Notes

### Colorado Computer Science Education Week is Dec 9-15, 2019

- Computer Science Education Week, Dec 9 - 15 is dedicated to inspiring K-12 students and teachers in the area of computer science.
- Is your school participating in any way?
- Learn about the computer science initiatives underway in Colorado, including grant opportunities for teachers, high school standards and an online resource bank by visiting the Colorado Computer Science Education webpage at, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/computerscience>.
- One of the resources listed is a Computer Science Tool-Kit for Parents at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stem/computer-science-toolkit-for-parents>.
- This is a great online resource with links to many more high quality resources.



### D11 Five-Year Academic Master Plan (Status and Milestones)

- Mr. David Engstrom, Deputy Supt, Achievement, Learning and Leadership Division, briefed the first framework for the Academic Master Plan at the D11 Board of Education Work Session on Dec 4, 2019.
- This presentation focused on Foundations (stakeholder input on needs and future direction for D11), Phases, and Possibilities.
- This work is based on the Board approved Strategic Plan and has the potential to impact all aspects of D11.
- We highly recommend that all SAC members pay close attention to the progress and milestones for input to and development of the Academic Master Plan.
- Slides for the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> briefing to the Board are at, [https://go.boarddocs.com/co/d11/Board.nsf/files/BJ6QKJ687D2E/\\$file/AMP%20BOE%20Work%20Session%2C%20December%204%2C%202019.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/co/d11/Board.nsf/files/BJ6QKJ687D2E/$file/AMP%20BOE%20Work%20Session%2C%20December%204%2C%202019.pdf).
- The current goal is to finalize and publicize the Five Year Academic Master Plan in April 2020. We will attempt to give you timely information on input opportunities and progress over the coming months as the plan is developed.



## News & Notes (Continued)

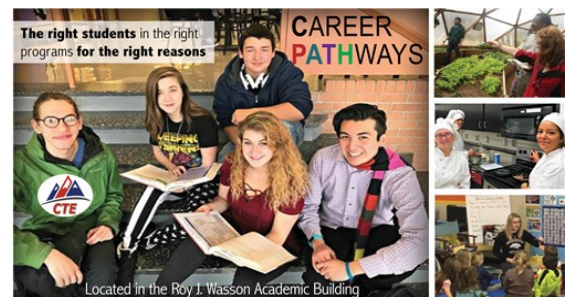
### Expansion of Challenger Program for D11 Students (Friday Night Notes Nov 15, 2019)

- ◇ Challenger Learning Center received a generous donation from Lockheed Martin, so all D11 eighth grade students will be able to participate in a full day program at Challenger's new location.
- ◇ Challenger's new location offers additional opportunity for programming beyond the half-day Mars missions that students have traditionally completed. The additional funding will expand the program to include a Planetarium experience and an activity in the STEM Lab.
- ◇ Thanks go out to Challenger Learning Center and Lockheed Martin for being partners in education and supporting D11 students with STEM education.



### D11 Career Pathways Latest Programs Offered at Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus (for MS and HS SACs)

- Career Pathways is a set of Career & Technical Education programs available to all D11 high school students, offered through Odyssey ECCO, located on the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus.
- Please check out the Career Pathways webpage at <https://www.d11.org/domain/1576>. It is well organized and provides current information on D11 Career Pathways programs and workforce readiness. Students, families and SACs should find it easy to navigate.



### Congratulations to the new Board of Education Members

At the December 4th Board Meeting, D11 honored outgoing Board members Nora Brown, Elaine Naleski and Theresa Null. The DAC thanks you for your dedicated years of service. The newly elected Board Members participated in a ceremonial oath of office. Welcome to the District 11 School Board, Darleen Daniels, Parth Melpakam and Jason Jorgenson. Welcome back to incumbent Mary Coleman. After the oath of office was given an election of officers took place. The results of that vote is:

**President:** Shawn Gullixson    **Vice President:** Julie Ott    **Secretary:** Jim Mason

**Treasurer:** Parth Melpakam    **Directors:** Darleen Daniels, Jason Jorgenson and Mary Coleman

## SAC NEWS/NOTES

### SAVE THE DATE:

The next SAC Training Session will be held :

**February 6, 2020,  
6:00 – 8:00PM at  
Tesla.**

Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by early-mid Jan 2020.

### SAC training/information session November 7, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Tesla:

- The SAC Training on November 7, 2019 included speakers Dr. Michael Thomas, Superintendent who presented the topic “The Strategic Plan moving into the Academic Master Plan, and the role the SAC will play in that work”, and Mr. Jeff Veley, Motivational speaker who focused on what parents/SACs can do to support their students through “Resilience Education for Bullying Prevention”. Mr. Veley’s website is: <https://www.jeffveley.com>.
- The event was well intended with 78 people who signed in. Thanks to all who attended. We believe there were more people in attendance than that, but just didn’t get a chance to sign in. We hope that the next training will also have excellent attendance! See below for basic information.

### SAVE THE DATE: SAC Training/Information Session Information and Updates -

The next SAC Information Work Session will be held February 6, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00PM at Tesla.

We will be looking at bringing you up-to-date on development of the D11 Academic Master Plan, proposals for a new Student Management System (SMS), results from the second Aligned District Benchmark (ADB) tests and more. Fliers on presentations and discussion topics will be sent out by mid Jan 2020.

### Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- Any budget/funding recommendations for 19-20 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2020
- READ Act: DIBELS Next Middle of Year (MOY) testing for K-3 (Dec 2nd – Dec 20th). For overall Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act requirements and timelines check out <http://www.cde.state.co.us/coloradoliteracy/readactassessmenttimeline>
- Galileo K-12: Second Quarter ADB ELA and Math tests (grades 2-8) will be Dec 9 – 13, with make-up week Dec 16 – 20. School results district wide should be available by Jan 6, 2020.
- ACCESS, the state test for English Language Learner (ELL) students (all eligible kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students), will be given Jan 13 – Feb 14, 2020.

## SAC NEWS/NOTES (CONTINUED)

### SAC Agenda Planning – December/January (Theme: Catch-up and Safe Learning Environment)

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics 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 December and/or January SAC meetings:

- ◆ Review/discuss topics from the D11 SAC Handbook, Agenda Planning Guide for previous months which have not yet been addressed.
- ◆ Review/discuss safe learning environment for the school (safety, discipline, attendance, etc.). Your principal has current discipline and attendance statistics, broken down by poverty and ethnicity subcategories, for the entire school in summary format which should be shared periodically with the SAC to discuss trends. What is the chronic absenteeism rate for your school? Has it been improving in the second quarter? [Note: For MS and HS SACs, this data should be available from the D11 Early Warning System data package.]
- ◆ Review/discuss the school's focus on parent strategies for individual student support as well as teacher/parent communication. Are most parents/guardians using the student information system Q and/or the new D-11 mobile app to monitor daily student assignments and progress? Is school administrative staff working to update parent/guardian contact information for errors noted on communications rejection reports? Are teachers using the teacher messaging system in Blackboard to communicate with parents?
- ◆ Review/discuss school budget alignment with USIP goals and identify school funding shortfalls, e.g.;
  - \* Instructional resources to meet transition to new state standards
  - \* Technology resources needed for student learning/testing

Note: Budget/funding recommendations must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2020 to be considered for the school year 20-21 budget.

- ◆ Review results of Galileo K-12 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ADB tests (grades 2-8) and compare to USIP targets. Is your school meeting or exceeding its student growth targets? What strategies is the school using to assist students who are struggling the most, and are they working?

## Good Things Happening in the District



*"It takes each of  
us to make a  
difference for all  
of us".*

**Jackie Mutcheson**

### **Colorado State Board of Education Presents School Performance Awards at Annual Ceremony on Nov 18, 2019**

The Colorado State Board of Education honored schools and districts during the annual awards ceremony on Nov 18, 2019 which recognizes and celebrates school year 18 – 19 performance accomplishments. School District 11 had winners in two categories.

- **Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award:** Given to schools that demonstrate excellent student growth. On the School Performance Framework used by the state to evaluate schools, these schools "exceed" expectations on the indicator related to longitudinal academic growth over three years. Congratulations to the following D 11 winners;
  - \* Columbia Elementary School
  - \* CIVA Charter Academy
  - \* Buena Vista Elementary School
  - \* Bristol Elementary School
- **John Irwin Award:** Given to schools that demonstrate excellent academic achievement. On the School Performance Framework, these schools 'exceed' expectations on the indicator for academic achievement over three years. Congratulations to the following D 11 winners:
  - \* Chipeta Elementary School
  - \* Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning (Charter)

### **Coronado High School**

KKTV Classroom Champion—Coronado HS Senior Alex Costa was named the November 19, 2019 KKTV Classroom Champion. A defensive specialist for Coronado's volleyball team, she helped her team make it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament in Denver, wrapping up an impressive high school volleyball career. Alex is a three-sport athlete competing in volleyball, track and swimming, all while she maintained a 4.5 GPA. Congratulations Alex!



## Good Things Happening in the District (Continued)

### Mitchell High School

- Forty Mitchell HS students received free laptop computers Monday, December 9th thanks to the Pikes Peak United Way program, Colorado Springs Promise. Colorado Springs Promise is expanding to include four other schools in District 11. Qualifying students from Doherty High School, Palmer High School and the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus will be receiving laptops before the winter break starts. Thanks to an anonymous \$25,000 grant from a Wasson High School alumni the program has been able to grow. Students are nominated by their teachers to receive these laptops to fill a void at home when students are struggling to keep up with homework. Over the past three years, 300 computers have been distributed solely to Mitchell High School students. Mitchell High School's graduation rate has increased by four percentage points since Colorado Springs Promise started providing the lap top computers in 2016.
- Mitchell HS has partnered with Peak Vista to establish a new primary health care facility within Mitchell High school. This new facility will offer medical, dental and behavioral health services. The health center is approximately 4,850 square-feet of renovated space in the northwest portion of Mitchell HS. This facility will be a community-based health center and it is a first of its kind to serve the students, staff and families of Mitchell High School and their feeder schools. The clinic will also serve neighborhood residents of all ages. Construction crews have been diligently working to get everything finished. At this point, they hope to have the grand opening day on Monday, January 6, 2020.



Larry Haas and Greg Rice

### Penrose Elementary School

Penrose ES Kindergarten Project Based Learning (PBL) will be participating in the Kindergarten Kindness Project. They will be collecting enough hats, socks, water and toys to share with those who need a little kindness this holiday season.

