



DAC Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Meeting Logistics:

Jessica Bassan - **Excused**
Irene Borisov -**Excused**
Jenny Brown - **Present**
Brian Domokos - **Present**
Allison Fox - **Present**
Julie Gooden - **Present**
Becky Krug - **Present**
Lisa Loomer - **Present**
Katie Lynch - **Present**
Ashley Opfer - **Present**
Kelly Pointer - **Present**
Chester Shaw - **Present**
Jen Spykerman - **Present**
Kate Welsh - **Present**
Sammye Wheeler-Clouse - **Present**

Quorum: Quorum is met (need a majority)

Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer - Present

Susan Meek, Board of Education Director - Present

Erin Kane, Superintendent - Present

Colleen Doan - DCSD Director of Budget

Alison Rausch - Director, Parent, Community and Civic Engagement

Gordon Mosher - Director of Choice Programming

Guest in attendance: 11 (this does not include DAC, DCSD staff or board members)

Came to Order at 6:33

Total Attendance 31

1. Meeting Logistics (Chester)
 - a. Roll Call/Confirm Quorum
 - b. A motion to approve 11/16 meeting minutes was made by Allison Fox and seconded by Julie Gooden. Passed unanimously. Katie Lynch and Brian Domokos abstained as they were absent.
2. Chair Report (Chester)

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- a. Welcome
- b. Bylaw Revisions
 - i. Ashley Opfer said they have sent an email for follow up based on changes in law and board updates.
- c. Subcommittee Updates
 - i. KB: Kelly Pointer reported that the KB subcommittee presented to the BOE on 12/12 and the presentation went well. The BOE indicated it might re-visit the policy after a 7th board member is selected. Also, Julie Gooden sent an email to the board on 12/14 to follow up on the questions they had during the 12/12 board meeting presentation.
 - ii. Communications--Kelly reported that the sub-committee will meet in January about communicating with the SACs and updating the contact list. Topics may be about live streams and how we can communicate with them. One suggestion was that a DAC member goes to each SAC, meaning the committee will need to know when they meet. An invitation to the SAC members in the audience was given. There was a discussion about each school having a standardized email address for SACs as a best practice.
 - iii. Membership--Lisa thanked the subcommittee for their three extra evenings of meeting and reported on Anne Chacon and Yana Krotova, whom each DAC member received a small bio about. Someone questioned if either had been on a SAC: Chacon had been on PTO, Krotova has not but is working at state level for various issues including ELL issues, motivation, and education while in Ukraine and Littleton Public Schools about education.
 - 1. Julie motioned to approve both and Jen seconded. It passed unanimously.
 - 2. Next steps are for the board to approve at the next voting meeting of January 23, 2023. They will be invited to attend the next DAC meeting of January 18, 2023 as non-voting members.
- 3. Board of Education Liaison Updates
 - a. Dir. Meek reported
 - i. On November 29, they had a meeting with 39 charter members of 15 of the 17 charter schools. They will report out in the January board meeting.
 - ii. On November 30, they met and swore in new members as well as elected their leadership. Dir. Peterson stepped down, opening a new board position, which was accepted by the board on December 12.
 - iii. On December 6, the board had a retreat to discuss norms, priorities, responsibilities, and the vacancy. They also discussed next steps after 5B didn't pass. On February 25, they expect to have another retreat.
 - iv. On December 12, the board recognized schools for various awards and the CASE Assistant Principal of the Year Keri Stuebinger. They approved various charter schools and gave the CFO and superintendent approval to delegate the funds from 5A. The DAC reported on KB and she

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congratulated them on a great presentation and the discussion that followed. She updated DAC on the timeline for filling the board vacancy. She ended by wishing everyone a happy holiday.

- v. A question was asked about the screening process--two board members will screen all of the candidates and bring forth their candidates to the board.

4. Staff Update (Matthew Reynolds)

a. Gordon Mosher--Director of Choice Programming

- i. Gave a presentation titled DCSD CART Overview and Process that focused on the process for charter application. The state's cycle starts in April and the board needs to rule in June with a contract needed by September. He went through the steps for a charter school to be approved as well as the state law 22-30.5-107 about the requirements for DAC members that need a charter school background. There will be a meeting on April 15, 2024 for DAC, FOC, and LRPC representatives to meet and discuss questions. The CART process has been reviewed three ways: by outside legal counsel, Colorado Association of Charter Schools Authorizers, and the Colorado State Board of Education. CACSA mentioned that it's okay for DAC to provide input without voting.

b. Erin Kane--Superintendent Update

- i. Superintendent Kane mentioned the appeal from a charter school that wasn't approved by the Board that they had to go before the Colorado State Board of Education, which agreed with the DCSD Board.
- ii. Ashley asked why CART no longer allowed DAC members to vote and expressed frustration that the April meeting isn't enough to feel like their voice matters. Superintendent Kane said that with the new process, the hope is that the direct feedback to the board with the new meeting would allow them to give the feedback that is needed.
- iii. Kelly said that the two people who last were on the CART Subcommittee (she and Ashley) feel frustrated that the requirements are onerous yet not allowed to make a recommendation. She made an analogy to being on a principal interview committee where parents are present throughout the interviews and then excused before a discussion and decision is made. Gordon Mosher mentioned that part of the Charter School Act made certain questions legal and illegal. Superintendent Kane said that since the recommendation came from the staff instead of the CART, it wasn't necessary for DAC to vote or be present in the final meeting. She clarified that it's not a vote as much as a recommendation.
- iv. Julie asked if being in the room means they are part of the summary judgment, legally. Superintendent Kane said yes. Julie asked if there was a reason that a DAC member hasn't been trained in the Charter School Act. Superintendent Kane's response was no, but that's a great idea.
- v. Kelly asked again why the DAC member couldn't attend the meeting silently. Superintendent Kane said it was since many staff processes

aren't public but that there was the opportunity for a debrief after. She offered to debrief with her or Gordon if that would help honor the DAC's requests.

- vi. Kelly predicted a struggle, especially in light of 5B not passing and that cutting out board committee representation in the final CART recommendation meeting hurts transparency and trust.
- vii. Chester asked that the DAC meet again because of a frustration with feedback but that we move forward to honor people's time as it was now 7:31.

5. Budget Update (Colleen Doan)

- a. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Fall Budget Update. With the passage of 5A, she mentioned the breakdown of the \$51 million that will be raised. \$25 million went to staff. (Matt reminded the DAC of the feedback that was given last year that influenced how the money was spent.) \$10 million went to schools for mental health, special education, gifted and talented, purchasing power in light of inflation, and substitute support. \$16 million went to support systems for special education, post-secondary readiness and student programming, transportation, learning services, and system-wide supports. Due to enrollment issues, charter schools will see a \$11 million decrease while public schools will see an increase of \$2 million, though it will vary from school to school. She gave a timeline for budget adoption including returning to the DAC for feedback in March and a final adoption in June.
- b. Becky asked if there had been any change in filled positions since 5A passed. Colleen said they'd have to ask HR.
- c. Kelly thanked her for the helpful presentation.

6. Family School Community Partnership (FSCP) Update (Alison Rausch)

- a. She started by handing out sheets about the issue, including 2 from the CDE (Overview of the FSCP Framework and a Self Assessment tool), one from National PTA (National Standards for Family-School Partnerships) and one about the Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Supports (IMTSS) and had a PowerPoint about the Family School and Community Partnerships.
- b. This year's focuses are to have family engagement woven into everyday practices, define essential level practices for FSCP in IMTSS and identify examples and best practices of FSCP in DCSD.
- c. The Leaders for Douglas County Schools is a cohort designed to meet monthly and help stakeholders deepen their knowledge and understanding of the district and its operations that will hopefully create a pool of candidates to serve on board or school committees or simply be advocates for DCSD.
- d. Jen asked if every school has a member in the Leaders for Douglas County Schools--Alison said no.
- e. Matt clarified an example of the FSCP Collaborative: that there has been a gap in the support system in terms of attendance and they hired an attendance specialist to help with the issue that has been a great success.

- f. Kelly asked who filled out the assessment. Allison said they did it themselves and they may, in the future, adjust it for the district's individual goals.
 - g. An audience member asked for clarity of the phrase "breaking down silos" and Alison explained about how the district can have different departments and they needed to help employees understand the roles of each person.
 - h. Julie asked if parents used the self-assessment as they may have a different view than staff. Alison said that would be an ultimate goal. Julie asked about how to FSCP and DAC, whom seem to share many goals and desire are connected. Alison responded this presentation would be part of that. Julie asked about reaching out to various families with different languages and cultures. Alison responded that is part of why Becky Corr helps as that's part of her job as the Language, Culture, and Equity Team Lead.
7. State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) (Angie Frank)
- a. She talked about Zoom translate as a way to help engage various languages.
 - b. She talked about ["Promising Practices"](#) and the need for DCSD to have some, perhaps some of the "Bright Spots" that Alison mentioned.
 - c. Kate asked Alison about, instead of going to schools to find "Bright Spots", using the "Promising Practices" to create a rubric. Alison said the work is slow, but that she would send this to people.
 - d. Becky asked about home visits and if that's coming to DCSD as it was helpful in the past. Alison said that on a systematic basis it may not happen due to a funding issue.
 - e. Brian asked about the Continuum of Impact. Angie mentioned that the number one need is an inclusive culture and it's foundational for it. Brian asked about what data is used for deciding a Bright Spot. Alison clarified that it's more about practices than events like all staff being in the hallway during passing periods.
 - f. Matt asked about more presentations to help us in the future. Angie agreed.
 - g. Brian asked about training for support for our district in terms of increasing inclusion in our districts as we may struggle. Angie offered some of the [coffee and chats and office hours that are available](#).
8. Open Discussion, Interactive Conversations, Input for Future Meetings, and Public Comment (Chester Shaw)
- a. No public comment.
 - b. Matt gave an update on the budget process and how, in January, we would look for budget priorities, which may have a standing agenda item. He also mentioned that the State Board of Education has been very active, which has an impact on the DAC, which he will update the DAC on as well as the UIP.
 - c. Julie thanked Ashley, Kelly, and Jen for how they were able to interact with the CART presentation and volunteered to do more research for how other school districts handle CART applications.
 - d. Lisa asked for more accessibility to the meeting and more discussion about that, specifically streaming our meetings.
 - e. A DAC member mentioned that for January and February she will be on maternity leave.

- f. Chester gave kudos to Sierra Middle School (where his son goes) and to the KB and membership subcommittees. He thanked everyone for their work in 2023 and the audience for coming.
- 9. Motion to adjourn by Becky and seconded by Lisa passed unanimously at 8:43 pm.