



DAC Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2024
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Meeting Logistics:

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

Quorum: Quorum is met (need a majority)

Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer - Present

Susan Meek, Board of Education Director - Present

Christy Williams, Board of Education Director - Present

Erin Kane - Superintendent

Alison Rausch - Director, Parent, Community and Civic Engagement

Guest in attendance: 15 (this does not include DAC and DCSD staff and board members)

Came to Order at 6:32

Total Attendance 31

1. Meeting Logistics (Chester Shaw)
 - a. Roll Call/Confirm Quorum
 - b. A motion to approve February 15, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Kelly Pointer and seconded by Jen Spykerman. Passed unanimously.
2. Chair Report (Chester Shaw)

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- a. Welcome
 - i. Chester will send out the feedback form on norms over emails and will continue this throughout this year.
 - b. Subcommittee Updates (Membership)
 - i. Julie reported that they have only received 3 applications for the 4 openings. Interviews will happen before the next DAC meeting.
 - ii. It was clarified where the application form to join the DAC is (on [the website](#)) and that another “blast” of publicity would be helpful.
 - c. Subcommittee Updates (Communication)
 - i. Kelly reported that there was a 60/40 split on whether or not to send the survey discussed in previous meetings, so the subcommittee will go with the majority vote and wait until August to send it.
 - ii. In terms of tracking the data on emails being opened/viewed, Kelly updated that Kate Welsh and she had some issues with it due to the email having attachments as well as the sending address needing to be verified. Fixing this and tracking it is a work in progress. Jen offered to help with that.
 - d. Subcommittee Updates (CART)
 - i. Jen reported that, at her orientation, they are expecting only one application this year but it won't be released until after April 1. This will be followed by a two day meeting before recommendations are given on April 23 and April 24.
 - ii. Kelly asked for a timeline. Jen expects to present to the board in the May meeting.
3. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Meek)
- a. She recognized and welcomed Dir. Williams.
 - b. On March 26, they had a special meeting where they voted unanimously to buy a building in Parker to house the Parker Bridge and Child Find programs. The one-time money came from selling some land.
 - c. They passed a resolution to support the School Finance Act as is. (There is a push to change the funding formula which doesn't add new finances.)
 - d. They had a presentation on MLO's impact, and [this is available online](#).
 - e. Retreat was on February 24th where they met with various representatives from each committee, including some from DAC.
4. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Williams)
- a. She thanked the members for coming to the retreat. They reviewed the board priorities and reviewed what the DAC has done.
 - b. She has asked the district for more information on the priority about the safety and security policy, Policy ADD, but as there are no current expectations for the board to change this, she suggested the DAC no longer focus on it.
 - c. At the retreat, they reviewed the survey results (emailed to DAC members) about communication. She heard that this can improve the DAC feeling valued by asking DAC opinions more, giving DAC members more opportunities to

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- present/giving more face time with Board members, responding to emails, and clarifying and defining expectations more clearly.
- d. In terms of bylaws, there was a request for the district to have some more streamlined bylaws. She expects this to happen during the May board session.
 - e. Kelly asked for clarity on the DAC's KB policy recommendations and clarified that it will not come up again until after Superintendent Kane gives a presentation on its implementation, which she has until the end of the year to do.
5. Accountability Task Force Update and Feedback (Erin Kane)
- a. Matt explained why this has changed--on Tuesday, the State Task Force requested DAC give feedback, so this was changed quickly.
 - b. Superintendent Kane gave some general comments about an invitation that should be coming out as a thank you for serving on a district board.
 - c. Later in the spring, she will give a State of the District speech and it will have a breakfast beforehand for elected officials, committee members, and more that the DAC is invited to attend.
 - d. She went through her [Accountability Task Force Engagement slide deck](#). She is one of 5 superintendents in the state on the task force. This Task Force is an attempt to address resource inequalities contributing to student performance, but is about 20 years old and needs to be looked at again.
 - e. She clarified that the scoring system (8 points for All students, and 1 point for each subgroup of Minority Students, Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible Students, Multilingual Learners, and Students with Disabilities) was intended to make sure that larger districts with small communities of these subgroups can't ignore these by having them as small percentages of their "All Students". However, an unintended consequence was that districts with incredibly high percentages of these subgroups are reported as lower than they are, since students are then, basically, "counted twice".
 - f. She ended by asking "What do you most value in state accountability?" and "To what degree do you utilize the state accountability system to make decisions for your family or students?"
 - g. A member asked if this was about the current state of accountability. She likes that it attempts, though it struggles, to capture all groups. Another member appreciates the desegregation of data. Matt clarified that the data is not segregated by sex for the state data, but it is for the federal reporting. Another member said the desegregation of data isn't the issue--it's the point system. Another member mentioned the issue is groups: should we have one on G/T, for example? Another member asked for timely and accurate data that is actionable for both educators and parents. Could it be more actionable for non-educators/parents/community members? Superintendent Kane reported that there is a discussion on who the intended audience for the report is. A member reported on the timing issue. A member clarified that the SAT has more helpful reports and that they had some initial reports in the next few weeks as the SAT is now online. A member asked about some other skills that could be measured as well as other data points that could be measured. The Superintendent responded

that there is a discussion about this but it can be difficult to track. Requests were made for adding things about discipline and culture. After she summarized it, a member clarified they wanted to adjust the point system. She also mentioned that N size is important for some rural districts because a smaller sample size has a larger impact and perhaps finding a small district and large district sample. Dir. Meek said that, from a Board member's perspective, having a system to monitor is helpful so a variety of tests mapped to different tests may be problematic.

6. DCSD Calendar Committee (Phil Ranford)

- a. He went through [a slide deck on the process](#) of creating a calendar. He distinguished between how this district reaches out to obtain a range of feedback from stakeholders as opposed to neighboring districts where the calendar is simply created and delivered.
- b. The committee meets in September to review expectations and surveys, monthly before finalizing the options from October to February, and uses March and April to survey stakeholders about options. He also discussed the difference between the negotiable and non-negotiable parts of calendar creation.
- c. As a committee, they agreed that the first day of school should be on a Wednesday, PD/Comp Days should be paired with Holidays. They would also try to make the start days similar for the two year cycle. All of this led to 60 calendars before narrowing down to the four that are on the survey.
- d. There is a difference between the length of the Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break for the two years to gather additional data on what stakeholders care about in terms of which break they prioritize.
- e. A member asked for clarity on when the semester started and Matt showed where it was on the website. The member clarified that this was difficult to find and needs to be easier/clearer on the survey. Another member asked who was taking the survey. Phil said that it's open to anyone. This member mentioned that it feels like it weighs high school students more. Phil mentioned that it's not a popular vote. A member clarified that the request is for a difference between a high school and elementary students and suggested adding a question to distinguish between students next time. Phil clarified that the survey is limited to one response per IP address. A member asked about snow days being built in. Phil said that the calendar is about contact days but schools determine instructional minutes. An audience member asked for more clarity on the ranking score and Phil mentioned that this is why they focus on palatability, not popularity. A member asked that this be more clearly added to the survey. The chair asked about the graduation date and how it's connected. Phil explained that this was chosen by schools, not this committee.

7. Budget Priorities Recommendations (Matthew Reynolds)

- a. Matt explained that the [FOC Budget Priorities](#) he sent out was more about the funding sources as opposed to the priorities that his survey of SACs had.
- b. He went through the [SAC Spending Priorities Recommendations Questionnaire Results](#) slide deck. This included the state statute that governed this, the overall

budget, and the way previous meetings have led to the creation of the survey. 54 of the 88 SACs have responded. He has had more responses in the past, but this survey had a shorter timeline. He is keeping the survey open and adjusting numbers as more results come (though it's not changing results significantly).

- c. Staff Compensation was a clear number one priority (2.04, 268 weighted) and New School Construction was the lowest (4.70, 124 weighted). The second priority was capital needs, followed by student programming.
 - d. A member clarified that her priorities are students, transportation, and then staff. A member mentioned that the survey wasn't necessarily saying students weren't valued. A member clarified that schools need amazing programs but without great staff, it's useless and great staff with no programming is equally important. A member asked about transportation not being ranked higher. Matt responded that it is a priority but not the top of the top priorities. A member mentioned that in her SAC parents of people who take buses weren't there to vote on it--each SAC member was a parent of someone who walked or was driven to school.
 - e. Matt clarified that there are already some parts that have been clarified in terms of the budget: taking money from the general fund for capital improvements and approving the new salary scale, for example. He also asked for some recommendations from the DAC.
 - f. Dir. Meek asked if chronic absenteeism is looked at in terms of buses being canceled. Katie, the principal, explained that transportation issues aren't counted for chronic absenteeism and that is a big example of the have and have nots. A member asked if this takes into account transportation. A member clarified that by doing staff compensation increases, bus drivers' salary will increase as well, so this may solve the transportation issue.
 - g. Chester asked for a recommendation. Julie made a motion to push forward the recommendation of priorities based on the SAC feedback. Lisa seconded the motion. Two DAC members (both district employees) abstained, one member voted against the motion, and 9 members voted for it. The motion passed.
 - h. A member asked for how this would be communicated to the public. Matt clarified that it would be in the recommendation made to the board and that his slide deck will be sent to SACs.
8. Open Discussion (Chester Shaw)
 - a. There were no requests from the DAC members for items for future meetings.
 - b. Meeting Reflection. An informal discuss said it went well.
 - c. Jessica asked for more feedback from her idea about adding members to the DAC including transportation and substitute teachers. She also asked if Chester could continue as chair for more years. A member said that as the chair of the bylaw committee, they were told to wait for feedback from the board for bylaws. According to Dir. Williams, at the retreat, the board asked the superintendent for a timeline and it should be presented in the May meeting.
 9. Public Comment (Chester Shaw)

- a. Simon, a Northridge Elementary student, talked about how her mom, the SAC chair, is often asked about her role, so he made a video about that and offered to make one for the DAC to potentially get more members.
 - i. Members were encouraged to Google “Simon Emge Tornado” to find news stories on other things he did like create and sell necklaces, which raised more than \$3,500 to raise money for Northridge Elementary after its tornado damage this past summer.
 - b. Many members thanked him and thought it was a good idea. Brian made a motion to take Simon up on his offer to make a video. Lisa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - i. **ACTION ITEM:** If a DAC member is interested in being in the video, they need to email Katie Lynch, who will work with Simon to get this done.
10. Motion to adjourn by Julie and seconded by Lisa passed unanimously at 8:32 pm.