


# District Accountability Committee Meeting Agenda

**October 15, 2024 5:30-8:30**

**Jeffco Public Schools Ed. Center, Board Room  
1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg. 27, Golden, CO 80401**

*(take elevators to the 5th floor)*

<i>Information/ Action</i>	<p><b>Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes (5:30-5:35)</b></p> <p>Therese will welcome members, and guests and determine a quorum.</p> <p><b>**A quorum of at least half of the current membership and at least one DAC officer must be present to conduct DAC business requiring a vote.**</b></p> <p>Members will approve the agenda for the evening and the September meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Agenda and September minutes</p>	5 min	Therese Rednor, DAC Chair
<i>Information/ Action</i>	<p><b>Charter Review (5:35-6:20)</b></p> <p>Review and vote on Charter School renewal recommendation</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Charter Presentation</p>	45 min	Jeff Baucum,  Charter Subcommittee Chair
<i>Information</i>	<p><b>SAC Survey Discussion (6:20-6:50)</b></p> <p>Share 2023-24 SAC survey report results for input/feedback</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> SAC survey presentation</p>	20 min	Therese Rednor
<b>BREAK (6:50-7:00)</b>		10 min	
<i>Information</i>	<p><b>Code of Conduct Review (7:00-7:15)</b></p> <p>Discussion and feedback</p> <p>Vote in November</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Code of Conduct</p>	15 min	Therese Rednor
<i>Information</i>	<p><b>DAC Member Input (7:15-7:30)</b></p>	15 min	Trace Faust, District Facilitator

<i>Information / Action</i>	<p><b>Open Discussion &amp; Adjournment</b></p> <p>Board member comments (if present)</p> <p>Submit your questions <a href="#">here</a> (or scan this QR Code)</p>  <p>Remember you always have a resource through <a href="#">the DAC website</a>.</p>	5 min	Therese Rednor
	<p><b>AAR Post Meeting Time (7:30-8:30)</b></p>	60 min	Michelle Kuenzler, AAR Chair

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER, 2024

Attendees:

<del>Amanda Andrus - resigned</del>	<b>Corky Guy</b>	<b>Erin Norton</b>	<del>Jessica Gregg</del>	<b>Laura Grims</b>	<del>Summer Guerrina</del>
<b>Amanda Bryan</b>	<del>Courtney Teasdale - resigned</del>	<del>Eva Kaska - resigned</del>	<b>Julia Morgan</b>	Lauren Harvey	<b>Therese Rednor</b>
<del>Amanda Gomez</del>	<b>Crystal Marine</b>	<b>Evie Hudak</b>	<del>Julie Woods - resigned</del>	<b>Leslie Dennis</b>	<del>Valerie Leaf</del>
<b>Annie Contractor</b>	<b>David Alex</b>	<del>Giselle Arroyo</del>	<b>Karena Hamm</b>	<del>Lucia Severtsen</del>	
<b>Aubrey Allmond</b>	<b>Dawn Fritz</b>	<b>Greg Aigner</b>	<del>Kate Otto</del>	<b>Matthew Noll</b>	
<del>Austin Long</del>	<del>Denise Alleman</del>	<b>Hannah Hoong</b>	<b>Katie Koivisto</b>	<b>Michele DeAndrea-Austin</b>	
<del>Brisneida Barrueta</del>	<del>Diego Rodriguez</del>	<b>Jaclyn Uttley</b>	<del>Katy Mattis - resigned</del>	<b>Michelle Kuenzler</b>	
<b>Caitlin Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Elizabeth Armstong</b>	<b>Jeanine Baird</b>	<b>Kaylie Weese</b>	<del>Monica Keegan</del>	
<del>Garsten Engebretsen</del>	<del>Emily Lubkert</del>	<b>Jeff Baucum</b>	<b>Kim Bierbrauer</b>	<b>Rob Applegate</b>	
<b>Cheryl Secorski</b>	<b>Eric Koch</b>	<del>Jennifer Sweezey</del>	<b>Kristina Stuber</b>	<b>Sara Kuntzler</b>	

Minutes By Agenda Topic:

1. **Topic: Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes (5:30-5:35)**

**Outputs/Outcomes** no comments/changes - stand approved

2. **Topic: DAC Member Resource Navigation (5:35-5:45)**

**Notes:**

Board Docs: <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/jeffco/Board.nsf/Public>

We can't cover everything in DAC, so this can help bring targeted questions here to DAC

- CDE policies
- Board policies
- District policies
- Jeffco - 10 standing committees, 4 as-needed, 6 consistently meet
- Note the very useful "search" feature above the primary menu choices

**Meeting Outputs/Outcomes - none**

3. **Topic: Budget discussion (5:45-6:35) - information session**

- Presenter: Brian Sammons, Jeffco Public Schools Budget Director - [brian.sammons@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:brian.sammons@jeffco.k12.co.us)
- Link to presentation - ■ DAC Budget Orientation 9-17-24.pdf - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1chE7LzBOPa\\_MYT7gzMGgOCnE8oPqedGR/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1chE7LzBOPa_MYT7gzMGgOCnE8oPqedGR/view?usp=sharing)
- Expected population/enrollment decline
- 200+ individual budget deciders, adjustments by district

- ? Gifted & Talented, Special Education, Mental Health costs - these are allocated on top of school-based budget each school receives (falls into staffed services from departments)
  - ? Not a per-student allocation
  - ? Staffing allocation based on student count - e.g., 29 students on IEP, district formula assigns FTE. This FTE does not come out of school budget
- Budgeting exercise

### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes**

- Member comment: exercise highlights how the inequities grow between schools, where affluent families can take items off the “major needs” can get taken care of and free up dollars for other priorities.
- Member comment: schools do receive additional per pupil funding based on multipliers such as being a title 1 school and IEP status. These multipliers were excluded from the exercise for simplicity's sake.

Subcommittee needs input: what information or guidance does this committee need to make budget recommendations from your SACS/schools? **Please submit answers via QR code**



#### **4. Topic: DUIP (6:45-7:20)**

- Preliminary vote taken on this DUIP in May
  - 📄 May DAC DUIP Presentation\_May 2024.pdf - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7jZsruZhINPm3ozqSF5lcyNXKr1bP3c/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7jZsruZhINPm3ozqSF5lcyNXKr1bP3c/view?usp=drive_link)
  - 📄 April DAC Draft DUIP Feedback\_4.16.24.pdf - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w\\_Kh6L9qc8-eXBJGW2JruYJTcmj8aDsc/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w_Kh6L9qc8-eXBJGW2JruYJTcmj8aDsc/view?usp=sharing)
- Subcommittee: meetings are Thursday before the DAC meeting, virtually, on Teams, 12-12:30 - October 10 is next. Future dates: 11/14, 12/12, 1/16, 2/13, 3/20, 4/10, 5/15
- Presentation: Dr. Carol Eaton -
  - 📄 2024-25 DUIP Working Draft (1).pdf - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ve4OjSXylrcXI2DMh6cPXQ1Clykw-jAE/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ve4OjSXylrcXI2DMh6cPXQ1Clykw-jAE/view?usp=drive_link)
  - 📄 Sept 2024 DAC DUIP Slides.pdf - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DZhi57u2xoLhRGfxEZrKfrKMaNP0ZjRT/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DZhi57u2xoLhRGfxEZrKfrKMaNP0ZjRT/view?usp=drive_link)
- Next steps:
  - October approval by board
  - Nov - April = Monitor this year's DUIP and draft next year's

### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes:**

Notes from tables: [SAC CHAT TOPICS AND RESPONSES.docx - Google Docs](#)

- a. What members wanted to bring back to their SAC's
- b. What folks found interesting
- c. Questions

#### **5. Topic: Charter Schools (7:20-7:50)**

- 5 charters up for renewal
- Rubric for evaluating charters this year

- Slide deck: [DAC\\_ Jeffco Charters - 2024.pptx](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HtugcN-voBPV--g9OHNsTTpzA2s-azvG/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=102359702598710988303&rtpof=true&sd=true) - [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HtugcN-voBPV--g9OHNsTTpzA2s-azvG/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=102359702598710988303&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HtugcN-voBPV--g9OHNsTTpzA2s-azvG/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=102359702598710988303&rtpof=true&sd=true)
- New rubric for evaluating charter renewals: [2024-2025 DAC charter renewal application review template.pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jZM-PGRWEEmaOneXU5SG0p_slpvZ-lbf/view?usp=sharing) - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jZM-PGRWEEmaOneXU5SG0p\\_slpvZ-lbf/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jZM-PGRWEEmaOneXU5SG0p_slpvZ-lbf/view?usp=sharing)

#### Questions:

- ? That is a different rubric. Why?
  - BOE wanted to align the district's rubric alongside the DAC's rubric
- ? Will the full committee get the information that goes into these criteria? Will the subcommittee provide a summary doc?
  - All of this work will happen in the subcommittee
  - "As a appropriate, yes."
- ? Can the board act independently of our recommendation?
  - Yes
- ? How many charter schools, how many students?
  - About 17 schools (maybe 16?)
  - 11.5% of Jeffco population
- ? Is the district looking to cap or limit choice enrollment?
  - Only if there is no capacity in the building, or
  - If there isn't appropriate staff in the building
  - Programming related - thinking about allocations above and beyond ...
    - IEP
    - ESL learners
- ? What is your vision for how much time this presentation and vote will take in October?
  - Subcommittee will ask: do you agree with the subcommittee?
- ? How to join the subcommittee? **Contact Jeff Baucum ASAP:** - meetings are fast and furious starting next week  
jeffbaucum1@gmail.com

#### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes** - information session

#### **6. Topic: FSCP Subcommittee Report - Overview of SAC Kickoff (7:50-8:00)**

- Folks arrived early
- Turnout - 68 of 136 schools (probably higher, data doesn't seem complete)
- Results from SAC chat - [SAC CHAT TOPICS AND RESPONSES.docx](#)
- Announcement: State SACPIE - by Congressional District
  - CDE page: [State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education \(SACPIE\) | CDE](#)
- Dawn Fritz, PTA representative - state surveys for state funding adequacy
  - AIR Study - [Colorado Financial Adequacy Study | American Institutes for Research \(air.org\)](#)
  - APA Study - [CO Adequacy Study Survey \(alchemer.com\)](#)

#### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes** - report out of SAC Kickoff

#### **7. Topic: SACPIE Announcement**

- Announcement: State SACPIE - by Congressional District - Vacancy for CO district 7 - [State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education \(SACPIE\) | CDE](#)

#### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes**

#### **8. Topic: Closure discussion & Adjournment (8:00-8:05)**


#### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes - adjourned - AAR meeting to follow**

#### **9. Topic: AAR Post Meeting Time (8:05)**

- How did SAC Kickoff go?
  - Overwhelming excitement

- Some experiences - 3 more meetings did not meet enthusiasm
  - Questions about why this format was selected, AARs didn't have answers
  - Commitment to feedback opportunity on this new structure
- Nervousness around Articulation Area meetings, especially with
- Pomona meeting last year -
  - SACs wanted resources - bring a document
    - SAC manual
    - Year at a Glance
- Agendas for your area meetings #1
  - UIP Season
  - Answer questions for new SAC chairs
  - Point to budget coming in Dec/Jan, when meeting #2 is likely
  - What schools are doing if they have low academic or belonging scores - collaborating on strategies
  - How to create effective agendas and run effective meetings
  - Engagement ladder
- ? Does the SAC have a thing to complete for the UIP? No
- ? Need a template timeline so SAC chairs know when to nudge principals

### **Meeting Outputs/Outcomes**

1. One mentor offered to join a new AAR's area meeting to provide some contextual support for a new person walking into this structure
2. Google Drive folder to drop your Articulation Area Meeting Prep Materials
  -  Articulation Area Material Drop Folder
  - AAR Input form - [AAR Topics\\_2024-2025 School Year - Google Sheets](#)

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

2024 -2025 Charter Renewal Applications Input

<b>TO</b>	Directors, Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
	Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
<b>Subject</b>	Charter school renewal recommendation – Doral Academy Charter School
<b>Date</b>	October 15, 2024

**Background**

- As stated in [Jeffco Board Policy Governance Process-07](#), one purpose of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) is to “provide input on charter renewal applications consistent with C.R.S. 22-30.5-110(3)(a)-(d) directly to the Board of Education and Superintendent.”
- The following document summarizes the DAC’s input on each charter renewal application submitted for Board consideration based on statutory requirements.
- The DAC is asked to keep the scope of their review to the contents of each charter school’s submitted application.

**Doral Academy Charter School  
Westminster, CO**

<b>Material violation of the charter contract</b>	
Has the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether Doral Academy committed a “material violation” of its contract. However, we have these notes regarding the information submitted in its renewal application about its <u>organizational health</u>, which includes its compliance with its charter contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They have an Improvement rating in Academic Achievement. In all categories, they are rated “does not meet” or “approaching.”</li> <li>● We’re concerned that neither their academic growth or achievement is adequate. This is true for the past two years.</li> <li>● Looking at the five year plan, their staffing is too lean to support student growth.</li> </ul>	

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

<b>Progress toward achievement</b>	
Has the charter school failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the...	
Goals and objectives	Undetermined
Content standards	Undetermined
Pupil performance standards	Undetermined
Targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of performance indicators	Undetermined
Applicable federal requirements	Undetermined
Other terms identified in the charter contract (if applicable)	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCs “failed to meet or make adequate progress achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s <u>academic performance and educational program</u> based on the information submitted in MPCs’s renewal application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They have an Improvement rating in Academic Achievement. In all categories, they are rated “does not meet” or “approaching.”.</li> <li>● We’re concerned that neither their academic growth or achievement is adequate. This is true for the past two years.</li> <li>● Looking at the five year plan, their staffing is too lean to support student growth.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fiscal management</b>	
Has the charter school failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether Doral Academy “failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s <u>financial performance</u> based on the information submitted in the school’s renewal application:</p> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Received a notice of concern from the District regarding</li> </ul>	



**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. negative unrestricted fund balance</li> <li>2. staffing for financial management</li> <li>3. overestimation of student enrollment</li> <li>4. CECFA construction loan and the school's ability to repay given enrollment trends</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contradictory statements about finances in application between the Narrative and the Financial Performance Framework.</li> <li>● Doral, Inc., has promised to cover operational shortfalls during the contract renewal period. The on-going reliance on Doral Inc's fiscal support is of concern, specifically should student enrollment does not meet forecasted expectations requiring ongoing and potentially increasing funding</li> <li>● Unrealistic FTE enrollment growth predictions put the fiscal and operational budget and strategic plans at risk.</li> <li>● Does not meet standards in 5 of 8 areas on Financial Performance Framework</li> </ul>
--

<b>Violation of law</b>	
-------------------------	--

Has the charter school violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted?	Undetermined
---	--------------

**Notes:**  
Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS "violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted."

<b>Summary</b>	
----------------	--

Based on the four conditions above, are there any additional concerns?	No additional concerns Additional concerns noted below
--	---

**Notes:**

- Doral has been unable to attract significant growth in student count over the past two years and the 5-year forecasted growth is unrealistic given the declining enrollment in Jefferson County.
- Doral has significant capital financial obligations in the next five years, including large balloon payment and lease expenditures that will be substantially difficult to meet without external support. Large debt expenditures move limited funding away from the classroom and negatively impact student resources.

**Jeffco Public Schools**  
**District Accountability Committee**

**Appendix**

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 22. Education § 22-30.5-110. Charter schools--term--renewal of charter--grounds for nonrenewal or revocation

(3) A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

- (a) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;
- (b) Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;
- (c) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or
- (d) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

2024 -2025 Charter Renewal Applications Input

<b>TO</b>	Directors, Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
	Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
<b>Subject</b>	Charter school renewal recommendation – Lincoln Academy Charter School
<b>Date</b>	October 15, 2024

**Background**

- As stated in [Jeffco Board Policy Governance Process-07](#), one purpose of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) is to “provide input on charter renewal applications consistent with C.R.S. 22-30.5-110(3)(a)-(d) directly to the Board of Education and Superintendent.”
- The following document summarizes the DAC’s input on each charter renewal application submitted for Board consideration based on statutory requirements.
- The DAC is asked to keep the scope of their review to the contents of each charter school’s submitted application.

**Lincoln Academy Charter School**

**Arvada, CO**

<b>Material violation of the charter contract</b>	
Has the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether LA committed a “material violation” of its contract. However, we have these notes regarding the information submitted in its renewal application about its <u>organizational health</u>, which includes its compliance with its charter contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They are at full capacity for enrollment.</li> <li>● They hired an Executive Director to improve their administrative management.</li> <li>● The school has been around since 1997 and has continued to successfully support students.</li> </ul>	
<b>Progress toward achievement</b>	
Has the charter school failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the...	

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

Goals and objectives	Undetermined
Content standards	Undetermined
Pupil performance standards	Undetermined
Targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of performance indicators	Undetermined
Applicable federal requirements	Undetermined
Other terms identified in the charter contract (if applicable)	Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether LA “failed to meet or make adequate progress achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s academic performance and educational program based on the information submitted in the renewal application:

- Their middle school is performing above the average of other Jeffco schools and the state.
- Their elementary’s growth in Math is very low; however, they recently changed to a new Math curriculum.
- Although the school’s total participation rate is “Low” at 85%, for accountability purposes, they have a 100% participation rate.
- They have been working on improving their behavior/discipline policies and implementing good values in their community culture.
- They have a higher multi-language learner population than the surrounding schools and are working to address those students’ needs.
- They continue to be rated “Does not meet” at the elementary level on growth for students with disabilities, but they have implemented more interventions to help those students.

**Fiscal management**

Has the charter school failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management?	Undetermined
--	--------------

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether LA “failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” However, we

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

have these notes regarding the school’s financial performance based on the information submitted in the school’s renewal application:

- They have had to deal with the need to sell part of their property to the City of Arvada because of road improvements, temporarily affecting a couple of their ratings on the Fiscal Performance Framework.
- They have a history of conservative fiscal management and strong governance, keeping a healthy carry-forward balance.

**Violation of law**

Has the charter school violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted?

Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether the school “violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.”

**Summary**

Based on the four conditions above, are there any additional concerns?

No additional concerns

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we have these notes:

- The renewal application appears to be robust and comprehensive.
- They continue to look at ways to improve.

**Jeffco Public Schools**  
**District Accountability Committee**

**Appendix**

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 22. Education § 22-30.5-110. Charter schools--term--renewal of charter--grounds for nonrenewal or revocation

(3) A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

(a) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;

(b) Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;

(c) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or

(d) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

2024 -2025 Charter Renewal Applications Input

<b>TO</b>	Directors, Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
	Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
<b>Subject</b>	Charter school renewal recommendation – Montessori Peaks Academy (MPA)
<b>Date</b>	October 15, 2024

**Background**

- As stated in [Jeffco Board Policy Governance Process-07](#), one purpose of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) is to “provide input on charter renewal applications consistent with C.R.S. 22-30.5-110(3)(a)-(d) directly to the Board of Education and Superintendent.”
- The following document summarizes the DAC’s input on each charter renewal application submitted for Board consideration based on statutory requirements.
- The DAC is asked to keep the scope of their review to the contents of each charter school’s submitted application.

**Montessori Peaks Academy Charter School  
Littleton, CO**

<b>Material violation of the charter contract</b>	
Has the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPA committed a “material violation” of its contract. We have notes regarding the information submitted in its renewal application about its <u>organizational health</u>:</p> <p><b>Organizational Health:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The school continues to have strong, consistent leadership and MPA educator retention (83%) was above the national average (77%). However, there has been a new principal basically every year of the last term of the contract. Frequent leadership turnover can lead to instability for staff and students and makes enduring, trusted relationships with caring adults, a core factor in child well-being, more difficult. The recent administrative hire seems to be a permanent one and the application reports positive stabilization.</li> <li>● Montessori Peaks Academy ensures understanding of and compliance with all charter relevant district policies, parameters of the MPA charter school contract, and district, state, and national laws that apply to the school by implementing a system of checks and balances.</li> </ul>	
<b>Progress toward achievement</b>	
Has the charter school failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the...	
Goals and objectives	Undetermined

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

Content standards	Undetermined
Pupil performance standards	Undetermined
Targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of performance indicators	Undetermined
Applicable federal requirements	Undetermined
Other terms identified in the charter contract (if applicable)	Undetermined

**Notes:** Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement regarding progress toward achievement in the above categories. However, we have these notes regarding the school’s academic performance and educational program based on the information submitted in MPA’s renewal application:

**Academics:**

- The goals and objectives of the curriculum in use at MPA are clear and consistent throughout the application materials. It is not possible to determine progress toward these goals because while educator and pupil standards are articulated in the application materials, there is no curriculum or mission-specific data to show how well the school is meeting the benchmarks now, nor is there any data from previous periods to show change over time.
- The school has been in place since 1997, proudly stating it was JeffCo’s first charter school. However, the SPF data shows serious academic concerns from 2022. There has been rapid improvement in SPF metrics through 2023 and into 2024. The UIP and progress over the last three years in the School Performance Framework indicate leadership recognition and dedication to academic performance. Further, this improvement is unique among charters seeking renewal this year.
- The mission and curriculum of the school places kindness and shared community as core. Low discipline incidents reflect the impact of this curriculum. For deeper review, however, several of the early elementary student surveys indicated a lack of feelings of safety and respect from staff and teachers.
- The application materials included the content standards according to the Montessori curriculum and ample examples of how this is implemented and assessed for educators and students. There was no performance data included against these standards, nor was there any information regarding the fitness of these standards against district content standards in order to assess growth or progress.
- The discipline data indicates low incidence of severe disciplinary issues, and the attribution of this to the curriculum seems merited.
- JeffCo, like many communities, sees a disproportionate amount of discipline shouldered by our students with learning disabilities, our students of color, and our low-income students. Although the most significant forms of discipline are rare at Montessori Peaks Academy, the applicant has not addressed whether their disciplinary actions reflect their student body makeup or that of the district.
- The UIP details are targeted and specific and reflect a candor about the school leadership’s ability to notice an area for improvement and find clear tactics to address concerns. This frank plan demonstrated transparency.
- The UIP “Priority Performance Challenge 3: Behavior Support and Normalization” recognized a particular challenge regarding student performance. The attribution of this issue to students’



**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

attitudes for performance gaps, rather than attribution to school leadership, seems inappropriate and unlikely to lead to resolution.

**Fiscal management**

Has the charter school failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management?

Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPA “failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s financial performance based on the information submitted in MPA’s renewal application:

- As the district's oldest charter, MPA has a proven track record of academic excellence. The enrollment has steadily risen, surpassing pre-pandemic figures. While elementary enrollment remains steady, they’ve seen significant growth in homeschool, 7th, and 8th grade. The five-year projection is based on historical trends and current waitlists at every level, which indicates a promising future for the school.
- Three out of eight financial standards were identified as “Far below standard” without explanation in narrative of the reasons for these outcomes.
- MPA cites a 1:1 student to teacher ratio for math instruction and a 5:1 ratio at other times in the PreK program. Fiscal forecasts suggest that this has limited budget impact. This seems unlikely, given the substantial impact personnel have on a human-centered operation.
- Increasing enrollment numbers and Per Pupil Funding (PPR), combined with responsible and conservative accounting practices, enable MPA to maintain a strong financial portfolio and ensure effective stewardship of the school’s financial resources, including:
  - Stable Restricted Reserve Fund of \$1.1 M, even after a lengthy, 3 year renovation effort.
  - MPA added an unrestricting contingency line in the 24-25 budget with \$75,000 to be used for unplanned expenditures.
  - MPA adheres to the TABOR requirement to maintain a 3% emergency unrestricted reserve fund by reserving \$194,000 for this purpose.
  - MPA completed the 23-24 fiscal year with a 1.32% coverage ratio, surpassing the goal of 1.20%.
  - Per Pupil Funding (PPR) increased 24% from 2020 to 2024.
  - ESSER grant funds enabled MPA to make substantial progress toward helping our community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Violation of law**

Has the charter school violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted?

Undetermined

**Notes: Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPA “violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.”**

- District staff said they had not received notice of legal issues from MPA. DAC charter

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

subcommittee stated the term “any provision of law” is vague and would require a thorough legal review to confirm such a definitive statement.

<b>Summary</b>	
Based on the four conditions above, are there any additional concerns?	No additional concerns
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Montessori Peaks Academy submitted a robust renewal application with a great deal of evidence demonstrating their strong footing in the community, their adherence to a well-known and highly desired curriculum, strong and stable board leadership and fiscal management, and performance data to support the value of their kindness-focused approach.</li> <li>● As the district's oldest charter, MPA has a proven track record of academic excellence. The enrollment has steadily risen, surpassing pre-pandemic figures. While elementary enrollment remains steady, they’ve seen significant growth in homeschool, 7th, and 8th grade. The five-year projection is based on historical trends and current waitlists at every level, which indicates a promising future for the school.</li> <li>● The Charter Subcommittee reviewed the MPA renewal application and concluded that the school is a valuable asset to Jeffco. As the sole Montessori school in the area, it provides a unique educational resource for the community with adherence to a curriculum with a long history based in research.</li> </ul>	

**Appendix**

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 22. Education § 22-30.5-110. Charter schools--term--renewal of charter--grounds for nonrenewal or revocation

(3) A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

- (a) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;
- (b) Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;
- (c) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or
- (d) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

2024 -2025 Charter Renewal Applications Input

<b>TO</b>	Directors, Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
	Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
<b>Subject</b>	Charter school renewal recommendation – Mountain Phoenix Community School
<b>Date</b>	October 15, 2024

**Background**

- As stated in [Jeffco Board Policy Governance Process-07](#), one purpose of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) is to “provide input on charter renewal applications consistent with C.R.S. 22-30.5-110(3)(a)-(d) directly to the Board of Education and Superintendent.”
- The following document summarizes the DAC’s input on each charter renewal application submitted for Board consideration based on statutory requirements.
- The DAC is asked to keep the scope of their review to the contents of each charter school’s submitted application.

**Mountain Phoenix Community Charter School  
Wheat Ridge, CO**

<b>Material violation of the charter contract</b>	
Has the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS committed a “material violation” of its contract. However, we have these notes regarding the information submitted in its renewal application about its <u>organizational health</u>, which includes its compliance with its charter contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MPCS has been providing a Public Waldorf education for 18 years and seems to be doing it well. It continues its unwavering commitment to the Waldorf mission and vision. The school offers students in Jeffco Public Schools and the Denver metro area this unique educational opportunity.</li> <li>● The school continues to have strong, consistent leadership.</li> <li>● Its educator retention is 92%, well above the average.</li> </ul>	

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Its early childhood program has a high rating on Colorado Shines.</li> <li>● The school has increased the enrollment of students eligible for free/reduced lunch from 13% to 25% - demonstrating its commitment to serve its local community.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Progress toward achievement</b></p>	
<p>Has the charter school failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the...</p>	
Goals and objectives	Undetermined
Content standards	Undetermined
Pupil performance standards	Undetermined
Targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of performance indicators	Undetermined
Applicable federal requirements	Undetermined
Other terms identified in the charter contract (if applicable)	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS “failed to meet or make adequate progress achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s <u>academic performance and educational program</u> based on the information submitted in MPCS’s renewal application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There has been growth in the SPF year over year for the last 3 years. The school has done an in-depth “Root Cause Analysis” and addressed the "Does not meet" for students with disabilities with substantial improvement strategies.</li> <li>● The school has a strong curriculum guided by the Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education.</li> <li>● Overall, the school’s academic performance and growth is encouraging. With increased focus on students with disabilities, they will likely continue the trend of improvement.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Fiscal management</b></p>	
Has the charter school failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management?	Undetermined

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS “failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s financial performance based on the information submitted in MPCS’s renewal application:

- The school has met fiscal standards. They refinanced their bond and allocated over \$200,000 a year back into their budget. They are meeting the requirements of their bond, have used their ESSER funds to support their students, and have used the BEST grant to remodel their school to better meet the needs of the student population.
- It is clear they operate a fiscally conservative budget, and they have history to show that. They do address additional risk management costs as a significant challenge in their fiscal budget, as well as the budget of time and resources.
- Their overall enrollment projections are to go from the current 490 to 536 in 2029 – considering the significant decline in the number of school-age children in the district and the state, we are not confident that they be able to gain more students. However, the addition of high school homeschool students might account for this increase.
- It is unclear what causes the attrition when each year they have between 74-80 kindergarten children and then only 51-60 1st graders; it appears that they lose 25% between K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We are not sure how this would affect their budget.

**Violation of law**

Has the charter school violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted?

Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS “violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.”

**Summary**

Based on the four conditions above, are there any additional concerns?

No additional concerns  
Additional concerns noted below

**Notes:**

- This school appears to be serving the Jeffco community well.
- Their commitment to the Waldorf curriculum gives Jeffco families an option for learning in a unique and different way than traditional classrooms.

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

**Appendix**

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 22. Education § 22-30.5-110. Charter schools--term--renewal of charter--grounds for nonrenewal or revocation

(3) A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

(a) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;

(b) Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;

(c) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or

(d) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

2024 -2025 Charter Renewal Applications Input

<b>TO</b>	Directors, Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education
	Tracy Dorland, Superintendent
<b>Subject</b>	Charter school renewal recommendation – Rocky Mountain Deaf School
<b>Date</b>	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024

**Background**

- As stated in [Jeffco Board Policy Governance Process-07](#), one purpose of the District Accountability Committee (DAC) is to “provide input on charter renewal applications consistent with C.R.S. 22-30.5-110(3)(a)-(d) directly to the Board of Education and Superintendent.”
- The following document summarizes the DAC’s input on each charter renewal application submitted for Board consideration based on statutory requirements.
- The DAC is asked to keep the scope of their review to the contents of each charter school’s submitted application.

**Rocky Mountain Deaf School**

**Denver, CO**

<b>Material violation of the charter contract</b>	
Has the charter school committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract?	Undetermined
<p><b>Notes:</b> <i>Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS committed a “material violation” of its contract.</i></p> <p>We have notes regarding the information submitted in its renewal application about its <u>organizational health</u>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● RMDS is one of only two CO schools that are dedicated to serving this Jeffco and Co student population.</li> <li>● Bilingual education is the core of RMDS approach in which they work to adapt or find curriculum that support their learning goals.</li> <li>● School leadership has identified key strategic areas of focus including enrollment, student retention, and fiscal reserves.</li> </ul>	

**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

- 80% of RMDS staff members identify as deaf, which helps to create a welcoming and understanding environment.
- RMDS has outstanding 2024 survey results supporting their overall approach including:
  - Family Survey: 90% felt RMDS was meeting student needs
  - Family Survey: 93% felt RMDS teachers were creating a good environment
  - Staff Survey: 94% feel like they belong
  - Staff Survey: 87% felt motivated by the work
  - Staff Survey: 60% felt they had enough resources

**Progress toward achievement**

Has the charter school failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the...

Goals and objectives	Undetermined
Content standards	Undetermined
Pupil performance standards	Undetermined
Targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of performance indicators	Undetermined
Applicable federal requirements	Undetermined
Other terms identified in the charter contract (if applicable)	Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement regarding progress toward achievement in the above categories.. However, we have these notes regarding the school's academic performance and educational program based on the information submitted in RMDS's renewal application:

- RMDS is considered a AEC school which should be considered during any evaluation
- RMDS SPF scores showed consistent achievement with overall scores from 65 – 70 over the past three years. including Workforce readiness of 100% in two of the past three years.
- 2024 results in CMAS and PSAT were rated ‘Exceeds’ in 4 of 5 categories measured.

**Fiscal management**

Has the charter school failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management?	Undetermined
--	--------------



**Jeffco Public Schools  
District Accountability Committee**

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether MPCS “failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” However, we have these notes regarding the school’s financial performance based on the information submitted in MPCS’s renewal application:

- RMDS funding is unique due to being one of the few schools in the state that is 100% special education, and they receive greater than 50% of the annual revenue from other districts.
- Reserves of less than 30 days will restrict capital projects and strategic planning efforts
- Enrollment expectations are aggressive over the next two years, giving some concern over achievability and setting expectations appropriate with Jeffco and other districts.
- The multi-district funding formula gives confidence in covering operational costs over the next 5 years but does not allow for funding for emergencies, strategic or capital planning.

**Violation of law**

Has the charter school violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted?

Undetermined

**Notes:**

Based on the documentation the DAC received, we cannot make a definitive statement about whether the school “violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.”

**Summary**

Based on the four conditions above, are there any additional concerns?

See summary notes

**Notes:**

Here are additional comments and input we would like to submit about the application:

- RMDS is providing education where English is the second language of many students and 100% are bilingual. This context should be applied to any evaluation of their charter.
- RMDS supports and enhances Jeffco’s mission in providing students with unique needs a quality education in a supportive and engaging environment.
- The financial concerns noted previously should be taken seriously and district efforts to support RMDS fiscally are encouraged in support of a unique and valuable school with Jeffco.

**Jeffco Public Schools**  
**District Accountability Committee**

- Several times in the application, RMDS noted that they were looking at other authorizers. While the hope is that the charter will remain with Jeffco, it is appreciated that they need to find the best situation to support their mission and vision.

**Jeffco Public Schools**  
**District Accountability Committee**

**Appendix**

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 22. Education § 22-30.5-110. Charter schools--term--renewal of charter--grounds for nonrenewal or revocation

(3) A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

(a) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;

(b) Failed to meet or make adequate progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;

(c) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or

(d) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.

## Jeffco School Accountability Committee Survey 2023-2024

The School Accountability Committee (SAC) is a state mandated committee that allows community members to be involved in educational improvement at a school. It is through the cooperative efforts of parents, teachers, staff, administrators, students, and community members that foundations for school improvement are built.

Jeffco requires each school to have an active SAC. The SAC serves in an advisory capacity to the school Principal on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- \*School & District Budget
- \*Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)
- \*Family Engagement
- \*School and District Policy

**The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from every SAC and Articulation Area in Jeffco to advise the District Accountability Committee (DAC), Board of Education, and Jeffco district staff with informed recommendations to support the education and growth of Jeffco students. \*Charter Schools: please answer to the best of your ability.**

**The survey includes four sections:**

- \*SAC General Information
- \*Family Engagement
- \*School Improvement
- \*Budget

The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete and should be completed by the SAC Chair and at least one other member of the SAC. **The survey closes on December 19, 2023.**

Responses will be used in aggregate to create trend data that will be reported to the Board of Education early in 2024. We appreciate all that you do to ensure a positive experience for all Jeffco students.

---

### SAC General Information

- Email
- Name of the SAC Chair/SAC Member/School Leader completing this survey and role
- Names of the other SAC Members(s) completing this survey and role
- School Name
- Articulation Area
- Level (Elementary, Middle, High, Multi-Level)

- How many active members attend your SAC meetings?
  - 1-5
  - 6-10
  - 11-15
  - 16-20
  - 20+
  
- How many times has your SAC met this year?
  
- How often does your SAC meet?
  - Monthly
  - Bi-monthly
  - Quarterly
  - Once a semester
  - Other
  
- Does your SAC adequately represent the diversity of your school community in terms of various demographic and programming factors, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, socio-economic background, parents of GT students, parents of students with disabilities, multilingual learners, etc.?
  - Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
  - Other
  
- How are your SAC meetings advertised?
  - Newsletter
  - Email
  - Social Media
  - Other

## **Family Engagement**

One of the main duties of the SAC is to consult with the school's Principal on the ways to increase family engagement in the school.

- Which of the following has your SAC discussed, prioritized, or addressed this year regarding Family engagement (check all that apply):
  - Building a community of belonging
  - Ensuring accessible, consistent, two-way communication between school and families taking into account language barriers and communication preferences
  - Getting to know students and families and their strengths
  - Creating meaningful and flexible volunteer opportunities for parents within the school community
  - Connecting families to resources that address their needs

- Ensuring that family engagement initiatives are accessible and respectful of all families
  - Providing resources and strategies that empower parents to support their child’s learning at home
  - Gathering feedback from families about their experiences with the school
  - Using feedback to inform decision making and improve family engagement practices
  - Collaborative decision making with families
  - Other
- How much do you agree with the following statement: Our SAC has the knowledge and tools needed to assist school personnel in increasing the level of family engagement in the school.
    - Strongly disagree
    - Disagree
    - Agree
    - Strongly agree
    - I don’t know
    - other
- What are your school’s strengths regarding family engagement? (check all that apply):
    - Creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere that encourages parents and community members to be actively involved in the school
    - Providing resources for families to support family engagement and effective strategies for involvement
    - Establishing mechanisms for two-way communication, including opportunities for families to provide feedback on school priorities and initiatives
    - Organizing events like open houses, educational/family nights, and back-to-school nights to foster connections
    - Providing opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in school committees
    - Use of multiple communication channels, such as newsletters, websites, social media, and mobile apps, to keep families informed
    - Celebrating and showcasing the diverse talents, backgrounds, and achievements of students and families within the school community
    - Other
- What additional support does your SAC need to increase family engagement at your school?
  - Identify any challenges or barriers your SAC has experienced related to family engagement:

**Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)**

Another priority focus of the SAC is to consult with the school’s Principal on the school’s Unified Improvement Plan to ensure positive experiences and academic outcomes for all students. For your reference, the following document was provided by district leadership to all school’s to support in the writing of their school’s UIP:

[Unified Improvement Plan District Strategies](#)

- Which of the following items did your SAC address this year in your school’s UIP? (check all that apply)

- Increasing overall student achievement in the areas of reading and/or math
  - Closing achievement gaps among different student subgroups i.e. socioeconomic status, students with disabilities, race/ethnicity, gifted students, etc.
  - Improving attendance rates and reducing chronic absenteeism
  - Increasing student engagement in learning activities and extracurricular programs
  - School climate and culture
  - Student mental health
  - Student social-emotional development
  - Student discipline or behavior
  - Programming and resources to improve graduation rates
  - Family and community engagement
  - Staff retention
  - Educator professional development
  - College and career readiness
  - Teacher collaboration via data teams, PLCs, and/or collaborative lesson design
  - Using student data to inform instructional decision making and monitor student progress
  - Culture of safety and belonging
  - Other
- How much do you agree with the following statement: Our SAC had the knowledge and tools to provide input into the development of the school's UIP during fall 2023.
    - Strongly disagree
    - Disagree
    - Agree
    - Strongly agree
    - I don't know
    - Other
- Identify any successes or bright spots related to your SAC's UIP development:
- Identify any challenges or barriers related to your SAC's UIP development:
- OPTIONAL: If your school is on Priority Improvement or Turnaround, did your SAC hold a meeting where families were invited to provide input on the improvement plan?
    - Yes
    - No
    - I don't know
    - N/A
    - Other

### **Budget Considerations for Academic Year 2024-25**

A primary function of the SAC is to consult with the school's Principal on the school budget and to recommend priorities for spending school monies prior to adoption of the school budget. Responses collected in this section will be used by DAC to make budget prioritization recommendations to the Board of Education. See this helpful document to learn more about the budget cycle: [Link to Budget Life Cycle timeline](#)

- To your knowledge, how did your school Principal and SAC prioritize spending of general fund dollars (Student Based Budget) for the 2023-2024 school year? (check all that apply)
  - Instructional resources and materials
  - Ensuring adequate staffing for core classes
  - Ensuring adequate staffing for AMP and/or electives
  - Educator professional development
  - Building maintenance and upgrades
  - Mental health staffing
  - Mental health programming
  - Physical health and wellness programming
  - Student programming and/or extracurricular activities
  - Technology
  - Special education staffing
  - Special education programming
  - Family and community engagement
  - Student behavior management and incentives
  - Other
  
- How much do you agree with the following statement:
 

Our SAC has/will have the knowledge and tools to provide input to the Principal regarding school budget priorities and recommendations for the 2024-2025 school year.

  - Strongly disagree
  - Disagree
  - Neutral
  - Agree
  - Strongly agree
  - Other
  
- SCHOOL LEVEL SPENDING PRIORITIES – From the list below, what do you anticipate will be your school’s TOP 3 spending priorities for the 2024-2025 school year? SELECT 3
  - Additional administrators (Assistant Principal or Dean)
  - Additional classroom teachers
  - Additional elective teachers (e.g., world languages, STEM/STEAM, arts)
  - Art/Music/PE (AMP) teachers
  - Art/Music/PE programming
  - Fulltime Digital Teacher Librarian (DTL)
  - Additional main office time/support
  - Additional paraprofessional/aide time/support
  - Additional supports to meet learning needs of ALL types of learners (e.g., diverse learners, GT students, at risk students, students requiring intervention, multilingual learners)
  - Additional elective programming
  - Increase offerings of Advanced Placement (AP) or Concurrent Enrollment
  - Instructional coaches
  - Mental/Behavioral Health staffing



- Mental/behavioral health programming
  - Professional development
  - High dosage tutoring
  - Academic interventions (staffing and/or programming)
  - Reducing student fees
  - Technology
  - Resources to improve school climate
  - Classroom resources; instructional and learning materials
  - Increase Career/Technical pathways
  - We have not spoken about the school budget at our SAC meeting yet this year
  - Other
- DISTRICT LEVEL SPENDING PRIORITIES – From the list below, what does your SAC recommend be among our district’s TOP 3 spending priorities for the 2024-2025 school year? SELECT 3
    - Equitable per pupil funding
    - Teacher compensation
    - Substitute teacher compensation
    - Support staff compensation
    - Capital investments (e.g., facility or technology upgrades)
    - Career connected learning
    - Mental health staff
    - Mental health resources
    - School safety staff (e.g., campus supervisors)
    - School safety resources
    - Instructional materials (e.g, curriculum, intervention resources, etc.)
    - Transportation services
    - Resources for students with special needs
    - Additional local revenue to the district (e.g, Mill Levy)
    - Other
- Identify bright spots or best practices related to your SAC providing meaningful input into the budget process:
  - Identify any challenges or barriers related to your SAC providing meaningful input into the budget process:
  - **The District Accountability Committee seeks to support and represent the voices of our school-based accountability committees.** What else would you like us to know about how DAC can better support SACs?

## **Jefferson County School District R-1 District Accountability Committee Code of Conduct**

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) has adopted the following Code of Conduct (Code) for its Members. The purpose of the Code is to help foster and encourage a culture of honesty and accountability. This Code is intended to outline some of the duties and responsibilities of the DAC Members during meetings and representing the DAC outside the committee.

### **I. Member Responsibility**

The DAC is comprised of parents and community Members who volunteer their time and effort to serve in an advisory role to the Jefferson County Board of Education. As such, each Member is a valuable and respected participant in the group. In an effort to promote vigorous and thorough discussions, along with encouraging full Member involvement at all meetings, each and every Member agrees to the following code of conduct:

- a. Value all participants' time commitment by beginning and ending on time.
- b. Be present, participate, and engage fully in both the general meetings and subcommittee meetings.
- c. Monitor personal technology (turn cell phones off/on vibrate, close laptops during discussion).
- d. Practice and self-organize table groups; identify a facilitator, recorder/reporter and timekeeper.
- e. Use effective communication and exploratory language: paraphrase, clarify, summarize, question, and invite thinking.
- f. Engage in open, honest, ongoing, two-way communication in a safe and respectful manner.
- g. Balance the need to advocate for a point of view with listening carefully in order to understand other points of view.
- h. Keep in mind that Members are here to provide advice, and that advice will come from a variety of beliefs, perspectives, experiences and values.
- i. Model civility and respect for each other and honor the differences expressed by DAC Members relative to district issues.
- j. Seek opportunities to recognize and use the wisdom that comes into DAC sessions.
- k. Seek opportunities to learn, share, care, and laugh together.
- l. Stay properly informed about the business of the DAC, specifically subcommittee(s) of which the Member is associated.

## **II. Member Representation**

A Member's obligation and responsibility when representing the DAC is to act in good faith and in the best interests of the DAC and the Jefferson County School District R-1 (District).

- a. Members shall not speak as an individual on behalf of the DAC unless authorized to do so.
- b. Members shall not use their position on the DAC to advance personal interests or the interests of third parties. These interests may be, but are not limited, financial enrichment, enhancement of personal or professional prestige, and endorsement of personal, political or professional interests. This does not limit Members ability to cite their position on the DAC as a personal qualification or experience.
- c. Members shall not represent their own personal opinions as those of the DAC.
- d. In circumstances where confusion or uncertainty may arise, the Member should use "safe harbour" language such as, "I am a member of the Jeffco District Accountability Committee, but am presenting my individual views, and not speaking/writing on behalf of the DAC or presenting the views of the DAC."

## **III. Conflict of Interest**

Conflicts between the best interests of the DAC and the District and the direct or indirect personal, professional, or financial interests of a Member may arise from time to time. This Code is intended to guide Members in identifying conflicts and in handling them appropriately.

- a. A conflict of interest can occur when a Member's personal interest outside their role on the DAC is, or may appear to be, adverse to the interests of the DAC and/or the District, or otherwise whenever a Member's personal interests outside their role on the DAC could be reasonably viewed as affecting the Member's objectivity in fulfilling his or her duties to the DAC.
- b. If a Member has a personal matter before the DAC or the District, the Member will disclose the interest to the DAC committee-as-a-whole prior to discussion as to subject matter deliberation, excuse himself or herself from participation in the discussion, and not vote on the matter.
- c. Personal interests may include, but are not limited to, outside activities, financial or other business interests, personal or charitable relationships or political interests or offices.

## **IV. Compliance with the Code**

This Code does not anticipate every situation that may arise; nor does it replace thoughtful and ethical behavior. Accordingly, this Code is intended to serve as a guide for Members of the DAC. Members are encouraged to bring questions about particular circumstances that may involve one or more of the provision of this Code to the attention of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

Members should communicate any suspected violations of the Code promptly to the Chair or Vice-Chair. Violations will be investigated by the DAC Executive Committee or by a person or persons designated by the Executive Committee, and appropriate action will be taken in the event of any violations of this Code. No retaliation will be taken against any individual reporting violations of this Code.

**V. Amendments and Waivers of Code**

This Code shall be reviewed by the committee-as-a-whole at least annually, at which time Members may make motions to revise the Code. Code revisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Members present at the meeting.

All changes or amendments to this Code approved by DAC Members, before they can take effect, must be presented to the BOE for its approval.