

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

Attendees: ~~Strikethrough~~ means did not attend.

At Large Member - VACANT	<del>Corky Guy</del>	<del>Erin Norton</del>	<del>Jessica Gregg</del>	Laura Grims	Columbine AAR - VACANT
<del>Amanda Bryan</del>	Standley Lake AAR - VACANT	At Large Member - VACANT	Julia Morgan	Bear Creek AAR - VACANT	Therese Rednor
Amanda Gomez	Crystal Marine	Evie Hudak	Conifer AAR - VACANT	<del>Leslie Dennis</del>	Charter School AAR - VACANT
Annie Contractor	David Alex	Giselle Arroyo	Karena Hamm	<del>Lucia Severtsen</del>	
<del>Aubrey Allmond</del>	Dawn Fritz	Greg Aigner	Kate Otto	Matthew Noll	
<del>Austin Long</del>	JCEA HS Rep - VACANT	Hannah Hoong	Katie Koivisto	Michele DeAndrea-Austin	
<del>Brisneida Barrueta</del>	<del>Diego Rodriguez</del>	<del>Jaelyn Uttley</del>	Option Schools AAR - VACANT	Michelle Kuenzler	
Caitlin Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Armstong	Jeanine Baird	Kaylie Weese	Monica Keegan	
<del>Garsten Engebretsen</del>	Emily Lubkert	Jeff Baucum	Kim Bierbrauer	<del>Rob Applegate</del>	
<del>Cheryl Secorski</del>	Eric Koch	Ralston Valley AAR - VACANT	<del>Kristina Stuber</del>	Sara Kuntzler	

Minutes By Agenda Topic:

1. Topic: Welcome and Approval of Agenda (5:30-5:40)

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

2. Topic: Safe & Secure Environments (5:40-6:25)

**Contact:** Jeff Pierson, Executive Director of Safety & Security; Madalena DeAndrea, Senior Mgr - Security & Emergency Mgmt

**Materials:** Presentation: [DAC Safe Schools Presentation Fall\\_Winter 2024-2025 Jeffco School Safety.pdf](#)

**Outputs/Outcomes**

- Input from DAC via QR code with key questions:
  - What are some of the things that you most value related to school safety in your specific school community? What makes you and students feel safe?
    - 1. Make a comprehensive list
    - 2. Circle your top 3
  - Generally, what safety and security investments do you think should be autonomous to schools versus directed and supported by the district? (if you get stuck, use your own list as a starting place)
- Outcomes of this input will be returned to us in the spring

3. Topic: Federal Programs/Title I (6:25-6.55)

**Contact:** Rhonda Hatch-Rivera, Director, Federal Programs; Andy Flinn, Manager, Grants

**Materials:** Presentation: [DAC - Federal Programs \(DoFP\) Overview \(11\\_19\\_24\).pdf](#)

## **Questions/Feedback:**

- How are you capturing the data of low-income students, especially without the FNS data?
  - Student benefit application - trying to collaborate across teams to increase response rate
  - School benefits application is one data point for qualification, but Medicaid and SNAP eligibility also qualifies a family
- What are you doing within the moment of uncertainty at the federal level, now.
  - “Focused on this year.”
  - District’s lobbyist is keeping the district informed
  - Decoupling k-12 budgets from property tax structure will make this cleaner, should funding outlook change
- Does the grants office only oversee Title Grants, or others?
  - All grants - i.e., school safety,
- Can you provide aid to schools to prepare grants?
  - Yes - “Intent to apply” form

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **4. Topic: Mentorship Connection (7:15-7:30)**

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **5. Topic: Special Project Update & Discussion (7:30-7:45) - CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

- Our “why”
  - Personal experience with a kid struggling with attendance
  - Child welfare experience - attendance is a concern. Further disincentivizing attendance and furthering a school-to-prison pipeline. Concerned with absenteeism solutions that don’t escalate
  - Parents feel squeezed with 4 PM let-out; students get pulled out early in order to get to afterschool programs paid for as added curriculum
  - Parents need support to be able to be effective with their kids
- District info
  - Data:
    - CO = 5th worst rate in the nation in 2023
    - JeffCo = went up from 35% to 27%
    - 3 red flags for dropout include absenteeism
    - Comparison to other districts: our graduation data is not as competitive as districts around us
    - Research points to: poverty & high mobility = absenteeism
    - 1200 students experience homelessness in JeffCo
    - 75% of students experiencing poverty are NOT in Title I schools
- What’s already happening:
  - Students missing the end of the day don’t count - has to be over 50% of the day
  - Truancy court: we’ve referred dramatically fewer than 5 years ago. Why? Because it doesn’t work.
    - Truth: it’s really about the parents. Most of the time, if kids don’t come to school it’s not their fault (parents!)
  - Truancy intervention plans
  - A variety of incentives
  - What the district liaisons want from the committee:
    - Consider: families DO care. That might not mean they can change the narrative for their child
    - Question: what do we need to do to engage parents differently in this conversation?
    - By articulation area: what is the chronic absenteeism rate by school? Family Engagement Team is willing to engage with focus groups to get some feedback about what is causing absenteeism and how to help address it

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **6. Announcement: SAC Survey to be sent on December 2nd**

- a. Asking for responses by December 20th

- b. Demographic portion
- c. Budget portion
- d. School safety questions added by district team

**7. Topic: AAR Post Meeting Time (7:45-8:30)**

**Outputs/Outcomes**

- Switch to 3 Meetings:
  - Artc area meetings went better than expected in one area; when turning this over to the group to make it useful for them, rather than being district-led, they saw value.
  - Having district there means SAC chairs cannot be honest, and even get overridden by principals and district staff. Need a space for SAC chairs only
  - We need space to convene without principals and district staff
- SAC survey
  - Shouldn't be completed by the principal
  - Should have meaningful community input
  - \$3.5 M is 50% of SRO costs which we're facing taking on in the next school year. Cost doesn't seem likely to be disbursed down to schools through SBB allocation