



DAC Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

6:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Logistics:

Jessica Bassan - **Present**
Jenny Brown - **Present**
Anne Chacon - **Excused**
Chad Cox - **Present**
Brian Domokos - **Present**
Lenaya Dotseth - **Absent**
Allison Fox - **Absent**
Julie Gooden - **Present**
Keith Langford - **Present**
Lisa Loomer - **Present**
Katie Lynch - **Present**
Victoria McDermott - **Present**
Ashley Opfer - **Excused**
Kristina Parent - **Present**
Jenn 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
Steve Colella, Chief of Staff - Present
Christy Williams, Board of Education Director - Absent
Dr. Deanne Kirby, Director of Educator Effectiveness - Present

Guest in attendance: 19 (this does not include DAC and DCSD staff and board members)
Came to Order at 6:31

Total Attendance 36

1. Meeting Logistics (Julie Gooden)
 - a. Roll Call/Confirm Quorum
 - b. She introduced Keith Langford, the new elementary teacher representative.
 - c. A motion to approve 9/19/2024 meeting minutes was made by McDermott and seconded by Spykerman. Passed unanimously.

Approved at December 19, 2024 DAC Meeting

2. Chair Report (Julie Gooden)

a. Welcome

- i. She repeated a request for any feedback on the norms. None given.
- ii. She updated DAC about a state proposal to no longer “average” the enrollment over years, which could lower the DCSD budget by \$12-14 million.
- iii. She reminded the DAC about the feedback requested for [Board File LBD-R-1 Policy about Charter School](#) and the approval process. She asked that any feedback given be forwarded to her to represent the DAC, knowing that people may have already filled out the district form.

b. Subcommittee Updates

- i. Lisa informed the subcommittee that she would send the questions for the subcommittee to give feedback. She will send out a survey to all DAC Members to see if anyone would be leaving. She’s also going to follow up with potentially changing the composition of the DAC and perhaps adding a charter school teacher.
- ii. CART had no update.
- iii. Budget will inform its members about expectations after the December meeting.
- iv. Parent Engagement will meet sometime in January to talk about Growth/Decline and SAC Engagement.
- v. Handbook committee will be meeting now that the bylaws are finalized. They hope to have a draft by March for the DAC, with the goal of it being approved for the 2025-26 school year.

3. EXPO Forum Subcommittee Recap (Jessica Bassan)

- a. She went through a [slide deck](#) that covered the survey results from the exit survey given to attendees at the conclusion of the EXPO. Overall, the results were positive. Suggestions for future events included better signs and navigation and more awareness for participants with special needs. Members talked about how DAC can add more for younger students.
- b. A member asked about the previous versions of the forum. Reynolds reviewed the history of how it changed from the forum, which was similar to a parent university, to the current EXPO after the feedback from DAC members was a request for more about future readiness. Attendance was low at the previous forums. Dir. Meek added a comment about how the DAC can determine the format of the event and there can be multiple events. A member suggested asking SACs for their thoughts on any changes. Another member said that it seemed the feedback was positive, so it may not need to be changed, but adding another one (though it couldn’t replace a DAC meeting) may be a good idea. Audience members responded that they liked it but may need more/better signs and that there seemed to be some concern about the competitiveness of programs.

4. Communications Update on SAC Survey Results (Jenny Brown)

- a. Brown reviewed the results for a SAC survey on a [slide deck](#) after giving a timeline of how and why it was created and implemented. Of the 91 schools, they heard back from 59 schools. Slides included info how many SACs attend DAC meetings, where they receive information about the DAC, and feedback on various ways for the DAC to communicate with them better. She ended with steps forward, including requesting feedback/questions from the DAC and contacting the SACs who want to be contacted. She also promoted the new DAC email DACdcsdk12@gmail.com
 - i. **ACTION ITEM:** Brian Domokos will start emailing Jenny Brown some “highlights” before the following Monday so she can send it to SACs.
 - b. Kristina gave an update on EAC and how its focus this year will be on bullying.
- 5. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Meek)
 - a. She thanked members and welcomed Keith. She thanked families for passing 5A. She asked why DAC members think it passed. Some suggested it was due to the growth/decline, the zero tax increase, the messaging improving, and the specific ways it helped each neighborhood school.
 - b. There was a meeting on 9/24 where they adopted the UIP and a board policy governance book and a meeting on 10/8 where they had the final Bylaws reading for various groups and read through various policies, and they had an additional meeting about the district's [Strategic Plan](#).
 - c. At the meeting on 11/19, they thanked people for passing 5A. They had some parts pulled from the consent agenda including AP African American Studies course approval (which was delayed until December 10). There was a discussion about a book called *Out of the Easy*, which was ultimately approved. Director Meek reported districts will be changed at the upcoming elections to reflect the change in populations. There was a request to release a charter school to the Charter School Institute. This is the first time, in her memory, a charter school has asked to bypass having the district as its sponsor.
 - d. A member asked about how the CSI is funded versus if DCSD approved the charter school. Dir. Meek answered the board had requested a Q and A with the charter school but didn't feel equipped to answer. Another member asked about finding the policy for the approval of a course. Dir. Meek offered to find the [policy which would be in the IJ section](#). A member asked what the effect of changing director districts would mean for sitting board members. Dir. Meek said it wouldn't affect sitting members. A member asked about the timeline for the charter school. Dir. Meek said her understanding is that the December meeting will be when the board votes on releasing the charter school.
- 6. Staff Update (Matthew Reynolds)
 - a. He thanked DAC members for their work at the EXPO and greeting attendees. It's possible this will grow as more pathways emerge. He also thanked people for their support in passing the 5A. He specifically thanked Julie Gooden for the extra work she did to pass it. He challenged members to get educated on what each school will get and to communicate the changes and the responsible use of

funds consistently to others to practice the “muscle memory” of asking for more funds in the future.

7. Educator Effectiveness Update (Dr. Deanne Kirby)

- a. She went through a [slide deck](#) about what her department reports to the state, reviewed the DCSD Evaluation Training, and the results from the optional survey given to staff at the end of the evaluation process as well as the TLCC survey results. A higher number of DCSD staff approved of the evaluation process as compared to neighboring districts. Elementary school staff rank their satisfaction higher than middle and high school staff. Satisfaction was higher than previous years.
- b. She passed out a chart with a summary of the open-ended questions organized by school level that was organized by Chat-GPT as well as the Licensed Evaluation Focus Group.
- c. DAC members were told to go over the feedback and find some areas for the Licenses Evaluation Focused Group to focus on.
- d. A member asked about the process and selection of evaluators.

8. SAC Engagement--Growth and Decline (Steve Colella)

- a. Reynolds explained how the Board Priorities meant that Colella would be giving this presentation. He also encouraged people to go to the tab on the website about [growth and decline](#).
- b. Colella introduced himself and his responsibilities. He also indicated the FAQ section on the website that Reynolds indicated. He thanked the community for understanding that the bond was needed because some areas have growth and need more buildings while other areas are declining and have to pair schools. He repeated the district promise that any employee who is displaced by the pairing process is guaranteed a job within the district. He highlighted the upcoming meetings to present information to the community and answer questions noted on the website.
- c. A member asked for a one pager to answer questions when DAC members visit SACs. Colella indicated the website and said they could put together something for the DAC. Another member asked how SAC and community members can provide feedback and guidance on the criteria for the pairing of schools. Colella said the slide deck that is going on the website has a QR code at the end of it that provides a chance for people to give feedback. In January, Superintendent Kane will go to the Board with a recommendation for the policy about consolidation, not the actual schools being consolidated. At the April 8th meeting, they are planning on recommending the pairings and having the board vote at the April 24th meeting.
- d. A member asked about parents who want to change schools after the pairings. Colella said that the schools are high quality, so parents finding a quality school isn't the issue as much as the challenges of having a smaller enrollment school. Dir. Meek reminded the DAC that the charge the DAC has is to provide SACs with this information. A member said she had concerns about this role. A member asked for clarity on if the district is asking DAC to do this on behalf of the district.

Reynolds stated that the directive allows the DAC to choose how to fulfill the priority. A member mentioned that the DAC could simply be there to gather information. A member asked about the timeline and going to SACs after April's announcement. Dir. Meek indicated that the board's intent was primarily to link the SACs and the Board. Colella agreed with this. An audience member indicated the anger that they claimed will be inevitable. An audience member suggested the DAC only gather questions. Colella clarified that the DAC isn't alone on this. Before Thanksgiving he will have met with all 16 Highlands Ranch schools. Gooden mentioned that the DAC's communication style could be to point to the website. An audience member stated her school in a declining enrollment school is less concerned about DAC members receiving anger than just waiting for the announcement. A DAC member suggested the role of the DAC be to simply tell SACs about the website and then gather information. A DAC member explained about the North Planning Committee and how it is formed.

9. Open Discussion

- a. A member asked about livestreaming meetings again. Reynolds said he would follow up with options.
- b. An audience member asked for tables to take notes. Reynolds said he could look at room configurations.
- c. An audience member thanked DAC for the new website and ability to grab images.
- d. Gooden reminded members about the virtual meeting in December and asked for DAC members to tell her early if they can't attend. A member said that if the virtual link is available 2 weeks early, it can go in the principal notes.

10. Public Comment

- a. No public comment was given.

11. Motion to adjourn by Loomer and seconded by Spykerman. It passed unanimously at 8:58 pm.