



DAC Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2025
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Meeting Logistics:

Jessica Bassan - **Excused**
Jenny Brown - **Present**
Anne Chacon - **Present**
Chad Cox - **Present**
Brian Domokos - **Present**
Amy Davis - **Excused**
Lenaya Dotseth - **Present**
Allison Fox - **Present**
Julie Gooden - **Present**
Keith Langford - **Present**
Lisa Loomer - **Present**
Katie Lynch - **Present**
Victoria McDermott - **Present**
Kristina Parent - **Present**
Jenn Spykerman - **Excused**
Kate Welsh - **Present**
Sammye Wheeler-Clouse - **Present**

Quorum: Quorum is met (need a majority)

Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer - Present
Susan Meek, Board of Education Director - Present
Christy Williams, Board of Education Director - Absent
Laura Gorman - Grant and Federal Programs Manager - Present
Gordon Mosher - Director of Choice Programming - Present
Dr. Deanne Kirby, Director of Educator Effectiveness - Present
Guest in attendance: 10 (this does not include DAC and DCSD staff and board members)

Came to Order at 6:31

Total Attendance 29

1. Meeting Logistics (Julie Gooden)
 - a. Roll Call/Confirm Quorum

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- b. A motion to approve 03/27/25 meeting minutes after the correction of EAC is made was made by Kate Welsh and seconded by Kristina Parent. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Chair Report (Julie Gooden)
 - a. She welcomed everyone and mentioned there are cards for public comment.
 - b. Subcommittee Updates
 - i. Communications: Brown mentioned that there wasn't much to report.
 - ii. Membership: Loomer mentioned they had 3 nights of interviews. She mentioned the biographies she had sent to everyone via email. There was a motion made by Lenaya Dotseth to approve them individually and it was seconded by Anne Chacon. A DAC member asked a question about the process, if an applicant was still eligible after serving, and the political nature of some comments by an applicant on what is intended to be an apolitical board. Another member asked how long an alternative remains an alternate. Though this needs to be clarified in future handbook parts, in practice the alternatives have stayed in that position until a term ends. Roxanne Aviles was passed unanimously, Molly Mund was passed unanimously, Whitney Holland was passed unanimously, Michelle Franci was passed unanimously, Luke Freeman was passed unanimously, and Andy Jones received 7 votes in support and 7 in opposition, meaning he was not sent forward as an alternate. There was a discussion about adding a charter teacher as a membership role. Only one district has one. One DAC member asked if the question was about a charter school teacher or charter school staff member. Another commented that charters are so different that it may not be a clear representative of everyone. There was a discussion about how a charter school teacher can't take the teacher role on the DAC but can't be a parent because they are employed by a charter. Lenaya Dotseth made a motion to add a district authorized charter school teacher or administrator to the DAC membership and Sammye Wheeler-Clouse seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.
 - iii. Handbook: Welsh mentioned that she needed more support and Dir. Meek offered to help.
 - iv. Parent Engagement: Gooden reported that there is a subcommittee meeting upcoming.
 - v. CART: Parent mentioned there are 3 applications that are upcoming with a deadline of Tuesday to provide questions. All 3 are charters already approved with 2 being replications (the same school already approved but in a new location) and one being considered "new" because it's serving a new set of grade levels at a new location.
- 3. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. Equity Advisory Council: Parent reported they are reviewing their recommendations on any updates to the bully policy.
 - b. MBOC Update: Fox reported there is no meeting until June.

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4. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Meek)
 - a. At the meeting last Tuesday, the majority of the time was spent on the 3 schools being paired. There have been multiple meetings, both in person and virtual, for each pair. She reported that they are listening to everyone and offered to review the timeline again. A member asked what the comments have been. Dir. Meek mentioned it changed from school to school: for the Saddle Ridge/Eldorado pairing, it's mostly about traffic; at the Acres Green/Fox Creek pairing, it's about which educational programs will continue; and at the Heritage/Summit View pairing, it's about how the higher performing school should be prioritized in the pairing. Another member asked if the fact that each school's leadership has been announced has changed any comments. Dir. Meek reviewed the leadership offers for each of the pairings. An audience member asked about feedback about 6th grade students moving up. Dir. Meek mentioned that building leadership has been addressing this.
5. Staff Update (Matt Reynolds)
 - a. Surveys: There have been 3 surveys launched on Monday that will close in 2 weeks: one for middle/high school students, one for staff, and one for families of students.
 - b. Strategic Plan Update: An update for the DAC will happen at an upcoming DAC meeting. The placement of 6th grade will be part of the feedback.
6. SAC Engagement Growth and Decline (Julie Gooden)
 - a. She mentioned that the meetings are completed and asked if there are any questions. A DAC member asked about the high school SACs who asked for a DAC member. Gooden mentioned that no one has currently signed up. Brown mentioned that the schools also haven't replied to her email asking for feedback in the past two to three months.
7. Other DAC Businesses (Julie Gooden)
 - a. She brought up the letter she crafted to CSI about the proposed John Adams Academy. Allison Fox made a motion to approve and send the letter as written to CSI and Anne Chacon seconded it. It passed unanimously.
 - b. There are 2 additional days to add a second response on the application itself. A member asked what that would entail. A member mentioned that the number of letters of intent were lower than expected and that other district-approved charters already offer the classical education that John Adams Academy is proposing to offer. She questioned if the letters of intent were actually from people intending to enroll versus those who were seeking more information on the school. A DAC member reviewed that she is attending the CSI board meeting on May 20 to address this. Another DAC member explained the process for public comment at CSI. Dir. Meek asked if this was a normal board meeting or one connected to this school. A member commented how hard it is to find any information on CSI and how to contact them or attend board meetings and how CSI appears to lack transparency. A member asked if the DAC could comment to the DCSD board about the process of releasing the charter to CSI. Dir. Meek mentioned that the board has a retreat in the summer and it can be asked then.

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Another DAC member mentioned that the DAC can always make a motion to have a specific comment added to public comment on behalf of the DAC.

- c. Gooden asked about the emailed options to add a forum, change the EXPO, and potentially hosting a school board candidate forum. Gooden explained that in the past the DAC would host two forums on various topics of interest to parents. Dir. Meek mentioned that the bylaws include a charge to increase parent engagement. Reynolds said that the EXPO was a result of a previous DAC activity and feedback on the need for CTE to be addressed. A member said attending the EXPO was helpful. Reynolds said that there's a balance between asking the foundation to host the EXPO and the 8th grade event. Another member mentioned the positive feedback the EXPO received and a spring forum on either cell phone usage/screen time and/or AI in education could be helpful. A member asked about 8th grade students from one school not attending the 8th grade event put on by the forum. Dir. Meek mentioned that she's a liaison to the foundation and hasn't heard anything about a decrease in attendance. A member asked about combining the forum with a Parent University. A member asked about ways to adjust the forums to a wider range of kids and their ages, suggesting that since the EXPO's target audience seems to be older kids, the forum may want to target younger ages. Reynolds suggested that the EXPO subcommittee meet to create ideas. The EXPO subcommittee will meet to create a list of ideas. A member asked if the event would replace a DAC meeting or just make it an event. A member said that having the success of the EXPO and passing it on to another group is probably good as the DAC looks for more ways to continue the success.
8. 2025-2026 CITE Update (Dr. Deanne Kirby)
 - a. She went over her [slide deck](#) about goals for the upcoming school year, including looking at the Counselor Rubric, which was last revised in the 2018-2019 year, which is before elementary school counselors were hired.
 - b. She passed out the standards for the current CITE School Counselor Rubric and invited feedback on what they value in the role of School Counselor and the key components in a rubric.
 - c. She is looking at the survey data that is incoming from staff before deciding how much, if any, adaptations would be made to the Lead and educational generalist rubric.
9. Title I Funding (Laura Gorman)
 - a. She went over the use of [Title I funds](#) that DCSD received as well as their plans for next year. There are different parts for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title III-Immigrants, and Title IV.
 - b. A member asked about whether or not the funds will be available next year with all the federal talk about withholding funds. Gorman believes that they will most likely be funded next year but the district is planning on a cut and were conservative in their plans. They believe that not continuing the funding would be illegal. They may arrive later than desired but should come. A member asked if Castle Rock Elementary was added as a Title I school. Gorman said they were

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not. An audience member asked where the funds went in more of a breakdown. Gorman mentioned that the majority for Title I funds went to salary, estimating 80-85%. For Title II, the majority is spent on subs for professional development, for Title III, it's mostly salary (60-65%) and presenters, for Title III-Immigrants, it's mostly community outreach and supplies, and for Title IV, it's a salary, and the parts mentioned in the above document.

10. CART Update (Gordon Mosher)

- a. He introduced himself and explained his job. He thanked the CART subcommittee members and offered to go through the process with DAC as well as answer any questions. He mentioned the range of people who are on the CART and how the team has a range of experts and expertise.
- b. He reviewed the three schools applications and the difference between an expansion, (adding more grades at the same address), a replication (the same school already approved in a new address) and a new school (a completely new school application or a school adding grades at a different address). He mentioned the areas for the new school applications and reviewed the next steps for the CART process including May 6 and May 27 as dates for the two public hearings required.
- c. A member asked about the Leman special education section that may contain a potential typo as well as where, specifically, the schools will be built and the land given. Mosher mentioned that, by law, the district has to give a list of surplus land and there isn't any yet. Charter schools have to show demand, not have a specific audience. The member then asked why there were zero letters of intent for two applications. Mosher mentioned that it is not typical for there to be zero letters of intent and that for every 15 letters of intent, there is usually one enrollment.
- d. A member asked about the very general location of "Castle Rock" instead of a specific area and that its location could have an impact on the public school his child attends. Mosher said that the district can't deny a charter school the right to apply nor deny it simply because it has an impact on the public schools in the area.
- e. A member mentioned that Leman's mention of success in Parker seems suspect and that the Leman schools seem to be very close. She asked about the lot that Leman received and if it was surplus land. Mosher said it wasn't but the board approved it.
- f. A member asked if the schools that are being paired could be identified as surplus land. Mosher said that they could but the Board and Superintendent have stated that the current demand for space and programming make the current policy to not allow this.
- g. A member asked about Crystal Valley being mentioned by two schools. Mosher answered that the demand isn't what it was in a former bond but these charters may still see it as a new place to build. Mosher stated that a former charter was approved, built a school, and wasn't able to get enough students to open, so this could happen again.

- h. A member who lives in Crystal Valley asked if this is going to turn into something similar in Sterling Ranch where a charter may exist before a public school is built. She questioned how residents in the neighborhood are being asked for their input. Mosher mentioned the dates for the two public hearings.
 - i. A member asked how much input Mosher has with CSI and how much role he had in releasing John Adams Academy to CSI. He stated they had no involvement. She asked about the law for a school being released to CSI without DAC approval. Mosher said that there is typically a process where a school can go through the application process with the district and then request a release to the CSI, but that was something not done in this situation.
 - j. Dir. Meek asked if he had any information on how the public can provide feedback to CSI about John Adams Academy. Mosher offered to try to find information. Dir. Meek clarified some previous DAC discussions for him. Based on the law, CSI only has to give 48 hours notice for any public meeting.
 - k. A member asked if there was a distinction between a letter of intent for people who already attend a school and new students for any replications. Mosher said there isn't a process for this. She added a question about the policy that dictates the typical process of a release to CSI after applying to the district. Mosher said it was policy LBD-R-1. She asked about the number of letters of intent needed for a school that predicts 600 students. Mosher explained the process for counting enrollment and the benchmarks charter schools must meet to be opened.
 - l. He reminded the DAC that any future questions can go to the CART members.
11. Open Discussion
- a. Loomer mentioned that the future members approved will go before the board in May. Dir. Meek said she could ask Dir. Williams to add this to the consent agenda.
 - b. Loomer asked that Reynolds push the invitation to a charter administrator or teacher for the subcommittee to go through the process on Monday.
12. Public Comment
- a. An audience member mentioned an issue about a reading at Prairie Crossing Elementary and offered to answer any questions about it. He had brought the book.
13. Motion to adjourn by Lenaya Dotseth and seconded by Anne Chacon was passed unanimously at 9:10 pm.