

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL, 2025

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

At Large Member - VACANT	~~Cheryl Secorski~~	Eric Koch	Jeff Baucum	Chatfield AAR - VACANT	Rob Applegate
Amanda Bryan	Corky Guy	~~Erin Norton~~	Jessica Gregg	Laura Grims	Shannon Ryan
Amanda Gomez	Standley Lake AAR - VACANT	Evie Hudak	Julia Morgan	Bear Creek AAR - VACANT	Sara Kuntzler
Ralston Valley - VACANT	Crystal Marine	~~Giselle Arroyo~~	Conifer AAR - VACANT	Leslie Dennis	Columbine AAR - VACANT
Annie Contractor	David Alex	~~Greg Aigner~~	~~Karena Hamm~~	Option School AAR - VACANT	Therese Rednor
Aubrey Allmond	Dawn Fritz	Hannah Hoong	Kate Otto	~~Mark Kirkemier~~	Charter School AAR - VACANT
At Large Member - VACANT	JCEA HS Rep - VACANT	~~Jaelyn Uttley~~	Katie Koivisto	Matthew Noll	
Jefferson AAR - VACANT	Diego Rodriguez	Jeanine Baird	Option Schools AAR - VACANT	Michele DeAndrea-Austin	
Caitlin Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Armstong	~~Jennifer Swezey~~	~~Kaylie Weese~~	Dakota Ridge AAR - VACANT	
Carsten Engebretsen	Emily Lubkert	Jennifer Wilson	Kim Bierbrauer	Monica Keegan	

Guests:

1. Mallory Hamilton, Free Horizon Montessori
2. [Guest #2], Free Horizon Montessori

Minutes By Agenda Topic:

1. Topic: Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Materials:

- [March Minutes](#)
- [April Agenda](#)

Outputs/Outcomes

- March minutes and April agenda approved

2. Topic: DAC Membership Reminders

Contacts: Therese Rednor

Materials:

- [DAC Member Intent Form](#)
- [2025-2026 DAC Membership Application](#)
- [DAC AAR Coordinator Application](#)
- [DAC Chair/Vice Chair Application](#)
- [DAC Secretary Application](#)
- [DAC Subcommittee Chair Application](#)

Outputs/Outcomes

- 2nd term process
- Recruitment updates
- Discussion: process update review, questions about the transparency of the process

3. **Topic: Free Horizon Montessori Charter School** (5:40-6:10)

Contacts: Jeff Baucum, DAC Charter Subcommittee Chair

Materials:

-  **Charter SC Draft Letter for DAC Approval 4-11-25.pdf**
- Dissenting opinion shared verbally.  Dissenting Opinion_ Free Horizon Montessori Charter Application.pdf

Outputs/Outcomes

- Process:
 - A lot of alignment in questions from district and subcommittee
- Summary:
 - See subcommittee recommendation approved by vote of the Committee of the Whole, above
 - Areas of review
 - Academics
 - Finances
 - Governance
 - Community Impact
- Tayo Adeeko, Executive Director of Charter and Innovation schools - summary of FHM history
- Questions:
 - What's the difference between an option school and a charter?
 - Option school is a school with no boundaries
 - How many option schools does the district have?
 - 16
 - Change the student experience?
 - NO
 - Committee reflections:
 - Hearing from both opinions about representation within the school as a concern - is becoming a charter going to fix this? Is there a trend over time to inform this?
 - Short answer: no
 - If they become a charter school, can they stop serving some students?
 - Enrollment is prioritized for the former Pleasant View boundary area
 - What is meant by the oversight being different between an option school and a charter school?
 - Comment: another perspective to be discussed: finances are fundamentally different
 - Teacher retention question
 - What's the population of the school:
 - 500 kids
 - What's the recruitment model: if you have a waitlist of 150% and only increasing the population by 17, what is going to be realistic for serving underserved populations?
 - How will this affect the district financially?
 - Effectively flat
 - Clarify: how many are on the committee, how did you get to the recommendation you've drafted?
 - 9 people on the committee
 - Preliminary vote before the recommendation was written

Vote:

- Motion: Therese Rednor made a motion to move the subcommittee recommendation forward for a vote
- **Vote: 18 Yes**
 - 11 No
 - 3 Abstain
 - 11 Absent from the vote

4. **Topic: Chronic Absenteeism**

Contacts: Trace Faust, District Facilitator

Materials:

- Review bucketed notes from March meeting; 4 groups to discuss the three questions

Outputs/Outcomes

- DAC report out to board at their meeting on May 7th.
- Alert: asynchronous, digital vote coming
- Group 1: **Data Transparency & Deep Analysis:** overall push is: what is the "why" for the absence?

- Group 2: **Supportive Structures & Interventions:** explore definitions, have some additional considerations, deep convo about belonging
- Group 3: **Innovative Practices & Systemic Change:** deep convo about the culture of stigmatization around absenteeism; need for normalizing the sharing of information about resources. Need to bring humanity in what people are experiencing to the top
- Group 4: **Policy Alignment & Advocacy:** hard to make a policy or advocacy recommendation because we don't know the data

5. Topic: District Safety Efforts - Updates

Contacts: Tara, Chief of Family & Community Partnerships

Materials:

- Safety Student Summit - SUMMARY  Student Safety Enhancement Project_Presentation.pdf

Outputs/Outcomes

Discussion:

- Rarely is the concern one of not having adequate policies, but more often, it's a culture of not reporting.
- "Fostering opportunities" is an evidence-based program the team is implementing.
 - Results:, with a 95% graduation rate for foster youth, which is not matched in other communities