



DAC Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2025
6:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Logistics:

Jessica Bassan - **Excused**
Jenny Brown - **Present**
Anne Chacon - **Excused**
Chad Cox - **Present**
Brian Domokos - **Present**
Amy Davis - **Present**
Lenaya Dotseth - **Present**
Allison Fox - **Excused**
Julie Gooden - **Present**
Keith Langford - **Present**
Lisa Loomer - **Present**
Katie Lynch - **Excused**
Victoria McDermott - **Present**
Kristina Parent - **Excused**
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 - Present
Jana Schleusner, Chief Financial Officer - Present
Colleen Doan, Director of Budget - Present

Guest in attendance: 11 (this does not include DAC and DCSD staff and board members)
Came to Order at 6:33

Total Attendance: 27

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

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- b. A motion to approve 04/17/25 meeting minutes was made by Victoria McDermott and seconded by Jenny Brown. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Chair Report (Julie Gooden)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Communication Subcommittee Updates: Brown explained that there were no major changes. They've been meeting with Parent Engagement but that may change next year, depending on priorities. During June's Virtual DAC meeting, there may be a poll or other interactive way of receiving feedback from SAC.
 - c. Membership Subcommittee Updates: Loomer reported that the Board approved the members and three of them were in the audience and introduced themselves. There are three applicants for the new charter teacher/principal spot and they are hoping to have that person approved in September. Dir. Williams reported that Andy Jones had asked for feedback on why he wasn't approved and there was a conversation. Part of her request as one board member was to have him approved as an alternative because the first email gave him the impression that he was approved. Dir. Meek mentioned that there wasn't a specific directive from the Board to have this happen, but they may meet to talk about this.
 - d. Handbook Subcommittee Updates: Welsh mentioned that a draft is ready and may be sent out to DAC members for feedback.
 - e. Parent Engagement Subcommittee Updates: Gooden said there is nothing to report.
 - f. CART Subcommittee Updates: Cox reported that they met and reviewed the 3 applications. The Board will vote on the 27th of May.
 - g. EXPO Subcommittee Updates: Domokos reported that there was a meeting but there was confusion about if the request for the event is about it being more informative or more hands on as well as if any of the ideas already exist. A suggestion was made to reach out to Alison Rausch about ideas. Another suggestion was to reach out to elementary principals about what they want or need. Another suggestion was to move a spring meeting to October. An audience member who is an elementary school principal agreed that each school shouldn't try to sell themselves as it would be too competitive but that a focus on literacy, perhaps dyslexia, could help.
 - h. Equity Advisory Council: Via communication from Parent, Gooden reported the bullying policy is completed and available online.
 - i. MBOC Update: Via communication from Fox, Gooden reported there was no meeting until June, so there is nothing to report.
- 3. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Meek and Dir. Williams)
 - a. Dir. Williams reviewed the last meeting and mentioned that the next May meeting will have a section on Home Rule added.
 - b. Dir. Meek reported that in the April meeting, the Student Advisory Board gave their presentations and the board approved the consolidation of the elementary schools as recommended in previous meetings. Dir. Meek reported that they received an email from the principal of Ponderosa about including the budget item on the survey about small schools. She also suggested that the DAC could

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work with the Foundation for Douglas County Schools about [the school supply drive that is happening](#).

- c. A DAC member asked for more clarity on the Home Rule presentation and Dir. Williams said she was trying to help have the discussion in public. Dir. Williams explained the Home Rule discussion and election cycle and invited feedback for what to ask. Dir. Williams will primarily be asking about school safety and security as well land issues.
 - d. A DAC budget subcommittee member reminded people that the SAC budget survey showed that the majority of small schools didn't select the smaller school option as the most important priority. Reynolds mentioned that he had also reached out to the SAC chair of Ponderosa.
4. Staff Update (Matthew Reynolds)
- a. He encouraged people to watch a live stream of any of the [high school graduations](#).
 - b. He reminded people that the new DAC Training is July 17 from 6:30 until 7:30 in the Wilcox boardroom. Existing members are also invited.
 - c. He reported that in June he will receive an overview of the Strategic Plan. He reminded DAC members that, as a result of the DAC's role in revising the Unified Improvement Plan, they will get some more information about the plan in August.
 - d. He reminded the DAC that they are committed to one more year of working alongside the EXPO. He will then have to report back to the two other partners for the next school year (2026-2027) if the DAC decides not to continue with the forum. A member asked if the EXPO would continue without the DAC as that may influence the DAC's vote. Dir. Meeks mentioned that the EXPO was a response to feedback from students that they didn't realize all the options available for them.
5. Budget Update (Colleen Doan)
- a. She went through the slide deck titled [2025-2026 Proposed Budget](#) that had been presented to the board on May 6th. It will be voted on at the June 10th meeting.
 - b. She reviewed the survey results from the DAC with the priorities. In the district, they tend to combine Staff Compensation and Staff Benefits, though they were separated on the survey.
 - c. They will be "strategically drawing down" from the fund balance, including proposing a use of 18 million dollars for the next school year. Also, they are projecting a decrease of 818 students for the following school year. The proposed budget is about 11 million dollars higher than the current school year.
 - d. She reviewed a slide about investing in schools and especially in small schools, including adding Gifted and Talented (G/T) staff to middle and high schools, and adding more funding for counselors in larger elementary schools.
 - e. She explained the history of the fund balance, including how prior to 2020, the fund balance was about 4% of the budgeted expenditures. During COVID, the percentage grew to a high of 12% in 2023. Even with the recommended

drawdown next school year, they will still be above the best practice of what the fund balances should be.

- f. Reynolds also introduced the school's CFO, Jana Schleusner.
 - g. She invited questions. A member asked about the G/T increase in high school and middle schools and how it's funded. Another member asked about capital funds and if any money is left from the 2018 bond. Doan clarified the difference between a small school operating budget and small school capital funds. Various members asked questions about the national counselor to student ratio, the ratio of elementary school counselors to students, starting school salaries at neighboring schools, and the extra monies that students with IEPs receive. Doan clarified that it wasn't for students with IEPs in the past but is now.
 - h. Schleusner explained the difference that is happening due to the school finance act, explaining that, for example, Denver Public Schools will increase \$2,000 per student while DCSD will increase minimally per student. She also reviewed how the per pupil average has changed from a five year average to a zero year average to a four year average and warned that the state budget isn't projected to improve in the next few years.
6. Celebrating Outgoing Members (Julie Gooden)
- a. Gooden thanked the members leaving, including Amy Davis. The other leaving members were absent.
7. Open Discussion (Julie Gooden)
- a. A member asked if there were dates for next year. Gooden promised to share them with others. This member also gave an update that on this upcoming Monday night CSI will be holding a meeting from 5 until 7 at the Douglas County Sheriff Substation. A member asked if there was a response from the letter sent to CSI by the DAC. Gooden responded that it was simply a thank you. A member asked if there was any method of ensuring that the community meeting was only about hearing from community members or not. It doesn't seem like there is.
 - b. There was a quick discussion about meeting board norms.
8. Public Comment
- a. Andy Jones thanked DAC members for their service and requested a repeal of their previous vote, which failed on a 7-7 vote. From 2017-2020, he was on the DAC and ran for the board twice. He's provided more information about his background that he believed made him a quality candidate. He was curious about why he had been rejected and explained why he believed he was able to serve in a non-political fashion and explained why he thinks there needs to be a larger political range of views on the DAC membership. He touted the range of ways that he already serves the district and invited people to come talk to him.
 - b. Marco Fields spoke as a former DAC member who was a parent member and then a community member. She gave a background on her roles in DAC and explained that she was here to support Andy Jones and explained her interactions with Andy. She claimed that many items discussed tonight were initiated by her and Andy. She explained that she and Andy have multiple differences yet they were able to work together because of their shared focus on

kids. She stated that many people and students benefited from all they did and that the DAC would be better with him on it. She also thanked everyone for their time and recognized Matt Reynolds for his work.

- c. Andy Moores came from the Fox Creek Elementary SAC and asked if it was possible to do more virtual meetings for the DAC. Moores asked why a Google Meet isn't possible because even that would be better. Gooden explained there was a financial cost and Reynolds explained the difference between a Google Meet (which doesn't work for accessibility issues) and livestreaming like the board offers during their meetings. A member asked if a volunteer could run the system.
9. Motion to adjourn by Lenya Dotseth and seconded by Victoria McDermott passed unanimously at 8:35 pm.