



DAC Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 16, 2026

Legacy Campus

6:00pm-8:00pm

Meeting Logistics:

Roxanne Aviles - **Absent**
Jenny Brown - **Present**
Chad Cox - **Absent**
Brian Domokos - **Present**
Lenaya Dotseth - **Present**
Allison Fox - **Excused**
Michelle Franci - **Present**
Luke Freeman - **Absent**
Julie Gooden - **Present**
Keith Langford - **Present**
Lisa Loomer - **Present**
Jessica Mason - **Present**
Victoria McDermott - **Excused**
Molly Mund - **Present**
Kristina Parent - **Excused**
Jenn Spykerman - **Present**
Kate Welsh - **Excused**
Sammye Wheeler-Clouse - **Present**

Quorum: Quorum is met

Matt Reynolds, Learning Services Officer – Present
Kelly Denzler, Board of Education Director – Present
Kyrzia Parker, Board of Education Director – Present
Alison Rausch, Director, Parent, Community and Civic Engagement – Present
Dr. Deanne Kirby, Director of Educator Effectiveness – Present
Jana Schleusner, CFO – Present
Drew Phelps, Budget Director – Present
Katie Lynch, District Assessment Coordinator – Present
Gordon Mosher, Executive Director of Choice Programming – Present
Laura Gorman, Grant and Federal Program Manager – Present
Guest in attendance: 9 (this does not include DAC and DCSD staff and board members)
Came to Order at 6:04 pm

Total Attendance:30

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1. Meeting Logistics (Julie Gooden)
 1. Roll Call/Confirm Quorum: Quorum met
 2. **Motion**
 1. Lenaya moved to approve 3/26/2026 meeting minutes and seconded by Lisa. Passed unanimously.
2. Chair Report (Julie Gooden)
 1. Welcome
 2. Subcommittee Updates
 1. FORUM committee- Will plan to meet prior to the next DAC meeting in May.
 2. CART: (Jenn)

Jenn and Kristina met with LRPC, FOC, and other stakeholders to discuss the new Renaissance application. Several concerns were identified during the discussion, including minimal detail provided regarding financial policies, and significant concerns related to the organization's financial auditor, specifically around ethical issues and lack of transparency. Additional questions were raised regarding facilities planning, including expansion plans versus a potential new build. There was also a noted lack of clarity around performance metrics and accountability structures.

Positive aspects of the application include a proven program model and strong data supporting outcomes.

The CART committee will interview the school next week and make recommendations to BOE.
3. Membership (Lisa)
 1. Lisa thanked the subcommittee for their hard work. She reported that several applications were reviewed and that there were multiple strong candidates. Candidate recommendations from the subcommittee were forwarded to the full DAC for review.
 - Suggestion to update handbook – as alternatives are recommended, consider priority to underrepresented areas in the district.
 2. **Motion:**

Brian moved to recommend the following candidates and alternates to the BOE (Secondary Teacher Representative Jared White from Legend High School; Parent Representatives Ada Gomez from the Castle View High School Feeder; Dr. Florence DiGennaro Reed from the Highlands Ranch High School Feeder; Elizabeth Johnson from the ThunderRidge High School Feeder;

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Maneet Mahal from American Academy with alternative parent representatives Kacy Phillips Hansen from SkyView Academy and Rebecca Marttila from the ThunderRidge High School Feeder). The motion was seconded by Jenn and **passed unanimously**.

4. Communications- no update
 5. FOC (Keith)- presentation on benefits, including cost to district. Also discussed legislative priorities and overall complications with that process.
 6. LRPC (Christa)-
 1. Superintendent Kane presented budget, selling Wilcox for a new office building. LRPC did not make a motion but did agree with staff recommendation to proceed with purchase of Meridian property.
 2. \$60 million to upgrade each non student building
 3. MCP still being upgraded
 7. MBOC- no meeting
3. Board of Education Liaison Update (Dir. Denzler and Dir. Parker)
1. Dir. Parker- reviewed discussions with the superintendent regarding Special Education presentation to DAC in future. Plan to have Deputy Superintendent Hiatt present data in fall regarding UIP and Special populations (August)
 1. DCSDSEAC- another option for discussion of special education. Next meeting May 13 at 6pm
 2. Dir Denzler- Meridian One building discussion
 1. Agreed to sell off property for surplus
 2. Considering MLO for 2026
 3. Central Office Consolidation (see above)
 4. Questions- any issues secondary to ongoing issues in Cherry Creek School District- no community feedback at this time
4. Title Funding (Laura Gorman)- supplemental funds that district receives
1. DCSD receives funds for Title I, II, III, Immigrant set aside, IV
 2. All funds are assigned in compliance with specific requirements of each Title program.
 1. 3 Title I schools in DCSD- Hope Online, Sedalia Elementary, South Ridge Elementary
 2. Money totals are based on census data/youth poverty rate from 3 year in arrears
 3. Title II- professional development/licensure
 4. Title III- English language learners, includes parent engagement activities
 5. Title III- immigrant set- aside
 6. Title IV-(small) required to split 3 ways, safe and healthy, technology, and well rounded educational opportunities. This also includes scholarships for Outdoor ed, testing fees, etc.

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3. Questions: contingencies if money is federally withheld. Answer- 2026/27 has already been allocated for next year. May see delay in further discussions since this is an election year and congress may postpone.
5. Budget Update (Jana Schleusner)
 1. FUND balance- focus on unassigned budget reserve
 1. Before COVID, held around 3-5%, rose to 12%, with a goal to get back down to original amounts. Has given DCSD slightly more room to not have as severe financial difficulties as neighboring districts.
 2. Brief review of recommendations for 26/27 proposed budget
 1. Recommendation will continue to draw down fund balance, which is their goal
 2. Budget proposal is aligned with DAC Budget priorities recommendation
 3. Revenue- several unknowns due to legislative session is still in progress
 1. Concerns due to uncertainty
 2. Looking to reduce budget by \$15 million in next two years - \$10 m from SBB, \$5 m from district.
 4. Budget to be recommended to BOE in May and possibly approved in June
6. Calendar Update (Katie Lynch)
 1. Committee meets and discusses options based on requirement and stakeholder input
 2. Popular vote is not always the goal. Ranked (Palpable Score) is used.
 3. 8852 Respondents
 1. 60% parents
 2. 11% teachers/parent
 4. This year Palpable and Popular were same (Calendar A)
7. Licensed Evaluation Update (Dr. Kirby)
 1. Focus Group work
 1. Generalist and Educator rubrics will be done by April 2027 due to need for more time
 2. Counselor Rubric - reviewed input and changes/explanations for each
 2. Next steps - counselors will meet 3 more times to continue discussion. In May final product will be for us to recommend to BOE for consent agenda in June.
8. CART update (Gordon Mosher)
 1. Review of the charter application process
 2. One application - Renaissance K-5
 1. Public hearings (date change):
 1. BOE meeting May 12 (staff recommendation, and applicant presentation),
 2. BOE meeting May 26 (date of vote)
 3. Capacity interviews - April 22 (CART team full interview)
 4. Questions -

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1. Magnet school has a waitlist, are same families interested in charter?
Answer - no way to know for sure at this time
2. Priority to existing REMS students? Not necessarily

9. Open Discussion

a. Special Education Presentation: Members noted the historical context that discussion regarding the state of special education began in 2022, including a prior survey. It was also noted that no formal presentation on this topic has previously been made to the DAC.

The following feedback was provided:

1. A request for a broader discussion beyond the UIP.
2. Questions regarding follow-through and implementation related to special education.
3. Discussion that DAC is tasked with representing all groups, specifically underrepresented groups, and need information to help continue our task of parent engagement

b. Chad Cox will not be returning as of tonight per email to Chair. His position will be filled by one of the new members voted on this evening once approved by BOE.

12. Public Comment

- a. none

13. **Motion:**

Jenn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lisa. Passed unanimously at 8:18 pm.