

Douglas County High School SAC Minutes
August 17, 2026
4:30 pm in DCHS Library

Present: Jarod Nicholson, Shawn Larkin, Dr. Veto, Claire Yolton, Anna Macknight, Stephanie Pollock, Jason Bower, Selina Carr-McEwen

SCHOOL UPDATES

WELCOME BACK

- 19 new staff
- Had 4 professional development days - focused on staff building
- Staff / teacher survey - a lot of comments about climate and culture
- Welcome back assembly - lots of energy and excitement

JAROD'S VISION:

- Climate & Culture - want this to be a destination job for educators
- Ensure every student and staff leave the day feeling valued
- Want students to be the forefront of every decision that's made
- Want to build the pride for DC. Be an ambassador
- Collective efficacy - adults working together has the biggest impact. Do great work for kids
- Excellence in academics, athletics and activities.
- Be a true community school.

SOLUTION TREE CONFERENCE

- How to do PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) the correct way
- 10 staff members attended and came away charged and excited to improve PLC time
- This training is Coming to Denver again in December and want to take a larger group

SUMMER PROJECTS

- We have to invest in our curb appeal
- Painted light poles, hand rails, doorways, sheds, athletic complex, etc. . .
- Window decals to increase the branding
- Metal signs getting installed on both buildings
- Working on athletic entrance - installing new vinyl
- Turf and Track replaced

NIKE PARTNERSHIP

- 10K toward athletic programs. Will have Nike gear and logo on athletic uniforms
- Also implemented a year round spirit store
<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/colorado/castlerock/douglas-county-high-school>
- Question was asked about if we can do something similar to boost funds for the performing arts. There isn't a known collaboration opportunity for performing arts. -

discussed the possibility of adding options to the spirit wear store for the music and theater programs

COSMO/JROTC

- Cosmetology area competed. First classes are working on a name for the salon. Second semester will be open for appointments to the public
- JROTC - already have 5 classes with 18-20 students in each. Focus on leadership, not recruitment. Will have competitions with other ROTC's in the state. The adult instructors can write letters of recommendations for any student for any branch of the military.

DC FEEDER BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

- Aug 20th 5:30-7:30 pm
- For the entire Feeder community
- Feeder schools have been sharing the event information well
- Interactive and student led
- Every student in the DC feeder will get a free We Are County T-shirt

TEACHER REPORT / CELEBRATIONS

- Working on Collective Efficacy
- Working on a common formative assessment to rate PLC success
- Teaches happy with cell phone policy and seem to be on the same page with enforcing it

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

- Homecoming - want to have a tailgating event for the game with games, music, food trucks. Feeder area kids wearing their own swag or purple can get into the game for free.
- Hiring head girls tennis coach sometime this fall
- Requiring athletes to show up and support other sports and programs. Attend a concert or play and at least one other sporting event. Will be asking all students to do this. Increase pride and community in the school
- Will be looking for opportunities to help at feeder schools. Assemblies, field days, etc. Wear our purple and be present. Make those younger kids excited to go to DC
- No pass / No play is continuing with some tweaking. Grade / attendance checks are going to happen weekly and disqualified students will sit out for one week instead of two. Report will go out on Monday so athletes have until Friday to raise their grade. Disqualifications will go from Saturday - Saturday. Must attend 50% of the school day to play in a game. Personal Project due dates will be part of eligibility. If the final project is missing and the student has an F, they will be disqualified the following week and will not be eligible to play until the project is turned in, even though that won't raise their grade.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

DAC REPORT

- DAC discussed how to increase communication with SACs. Have a newsletter that will continue to be distributed. SAC representatives asked for the DAC to provide them with

actionable tasks that they can take back to their SACs and provide meaningful info to the DAC.

- Educator and Interventionist evaluation rubrics will be worked on this calendar year
- UIP (Unified Improvement Plan) discussions need to be happening in our SACs right now, especially if our plan is due this year. (DC's plan is due this year and we will be dedicating the majority of our time in September's meeting to discuss the UIP.

Requested that any relevant information be shared with the SAC members prior to the meeting to allow time to become familiar with the content and prepare questions and feedback.)

- MLO (Mill Levy Override) discussion is still taking place. Trying to determine if it should be placed on the ballot in November.
- SAC trainings. Good info! Try to attend one!
9/2 at Castle Rock MS 6-7:30
9/9 at Chaparral HS 6 - 7:30
9/22 at Rocky Heights MS 6 - 7:30
- Career pathway EXPO - 11/5 - Legacy Campus. Highlights the Career / Trade opportunities offered by DCSD.

GOALS DISCUSSION

- How can SAC effectively help with the UIP process? The data drives a lot of UIP decisions. However, we will discuss root cause analysis of the data and what actionable steps can be taken to improve data.
- We want to increase parent involvement. Discussed approving meeting minutes within a week of the meeting and posting them on the school website as well as in Huskie Happenings. The hope is that if people read the minutes in a timely matter, they may feel compelled to attend a meeting since they see what is being discussed and that may interest them. It was also suggested that we add a google form link to Huskie Happenings where parents can ask questions, express concerns or give feedback that can be discussed at SAC meetings. Need to collaborate with Emily, the volunteer coordinator who is preparing Huskie Happenings to arrange this.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE

- How is staff being held accountable when not following protocols? Concern shared about how some teachers were cancelling first and last period classes quite frequently last school year and although the issue was brought up to administrators, it didn't seem to change the issue for long. Also, new protocols were put into place following some teacher arrests but are they still being implemented? How are admin addressing issues and then following through with protocols put in place to address those issues? Jarod said moving forward he will always make decisions he can defend.

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2026 4:30 pm Douglas County Library