

**DAC / District Accountability Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: January 13, 2015

Wilcox Building, Board of Education Room
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call:

- Jean Medberry, Parent Member
- Brandy Nath, Voting Teacher Member
- Amy Pfister, Parent Member
- Mark Harrell, Franktown Elementary school principal
- Deborah Lynch , Voting Teacher Member
- Kim Kibord, Parent Member
- Sandra Brownrigg, Recorder/ Parent Member
- Brian Wetterling, Parent Member
- Judi Reynolds, DCSD Board of Education Representative
- Ted Knight, DCSD Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education
- Steve Cook, DCSD Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education
- Dana Johnson Strother, Chief Academic Officer
- Kathy Brown, Parent Liaison

Absent

- Chris Cingrani, Chair/Parent Member
- Barb Cousins, Vice-Chair/Parent Member
- Jerry Hargrave , Parent Member
- Michael Holmes, Parent Member
- Ron Booth, Voting Community Member

General Meeting:

1. Roll call by recorder and confirmation of quorum. The December 2014 meeting minutes were approved with no changes. They will be posted onto the DCSD DAC website page by Dorinda within a day or two of the meeting.
2. In the absence of Chris Cingrani and Barb Cousins, Jean Medberry conducted the meeting. She introduced and welcomed the DAC members and the Board representatives in attendance.
3. Steve Cook mentioned the need to finalize the volunteers for the Unified Improvement Plan subcommittee. Three to four meetings will take place in the next month. Jean Medberry, Sandra Brownrigg, Brian Wetterling and Kim Kibord volunteered.
4. Dr. Dana Johnson-Strother facilitated the DAC workshop on World Class Curriculum [She will make this PowerPoint available to Dorinda.]

5. Curriculum is the goal – the “what” - for our students. It includes the 4 C’s; 21st century skills; the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC); the Colorado Academic Standards (testing); and Content.
6. Dr. Johnson-Strother conducted an exercise in which the participants differentiated goals from tactics and tools.
7. Our standard is inclusive of Common Core but also has additional elements.
8. Dr. Johnson-Strother distributed another handout based on Bloom’s Taxonomy: a framework to look at the rigor of a student’s thinking. The lowest level is remembering – rote memorization, in traditional teaching. The levels progress through understanding; applying; analyzing; evaluating; and the top, most complex level: creating.
9. Bloom’s Taxonomy is of value to all populations of students, whether they elect to pursue a vocation or attend college after graduation.
10. Historically, we taught based on the Industrial Model. “You will learn what I think you need to know. “ Now, the jobs require more. We need to give student opportunities to practice at a higher cognitive level.
11. The more students can transfer skills across courses, the better they retain and internalize those skills. Sample question: “Justify how perspective is a catalyst for change.” This could be a question in a language, science or history course, and it requires students to work at a high cognitive level.
12. Dr. Johnson-Strother provided several samples of world class education outcomes, with links to rubrics. These outcomes are based on “grade bands,” not age batches. They build upon one another through each grade, all the way through the student’s senior year.
 - EdLeader21 Collaboration Rubric for 7/8th grade
 - a. Areas of Collaboration
 - i. Leadership and Initiative
 - ii. Flexibility
 - iii. Responsibility and Productivity
13. Dr. Johnson-Strother and Dr. Cook answered a wide range of questions from the DAC committee and the audience.
14. Jean outlined the February DAC Forum agenda. The forum will be February 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mountain Ridge Middle School in Highlands Ranch. There will be three topics:
 - Site based budget
 - Best practices for SACs
 - Long range planning

Several audience members stated that, given the number of community meetings the Long Range Planning Committee have conducted with SACs, having another during the DAC forum would be redundant. They suggested instead that DAC consider the topic of increasing parental participation.
15. The DAC has requested each SAC provide budget priorities and fill out the survey that was sent in the newsletter earlier this month. The deadline is February 6, and the DAC would like one response per SAC. The results of these requests will be discussed at the Forum.

New Business:

1. Kathy Brown, DCSD Parent Liaison, said Parent University offers courses for parents that can help parents support their students. Upcoming topics include “Understanding World Class Outcomes” and “How to Help Your Child with Math.” Other sessions will help with issues related to Special Education; Gifted and Talented, and organizational study skills. On April 8, State Senator Owen Hill, chairman of the State Senate Committee on Education, will provide an update on upcoming legislation related to education. All are in the evening, around 7:00. Each is at a middle school library. More information is on the website at <http://www.dcsdk12.org/parent-university> and <http://www.dcsdk12.org/district/parent-resources>.
2. Brian Wetterling suggested we revisit how DAC members interact with the District and participants in the CITE evaluation and revision process. He noted that the approval process early last fall was flawed and suggested a few DAC members be allowed to sit and observe the revision process. Dr. Cook stated observers would be welcome. He also said that the District was working on making documents available to DAC electronically as soon as possible. He added that they are going to start the process earlier this year, so DAC members will have time to have critical conversations earlier and in more depth. Brian closed with the request to gain access to the same data for the principals’ evaluation framework.
3. Brian also provided an update on the Fiscal Oversight Committee. The FOC is exploring how they can best work with the District finance department. They would like to assist in evaluating the three year plan for budget; looking more critically at risk; and diving even deeper into the data to assess whether there is enough money for desired expenditures. Brian noted there is an overlap between Long Range Planning, FOC and DAC’s statutory responsibilities related to spending that needs to be addressed. It was suggested DAC include a FOC update as an ongoing agenda item.
4. Jean asked if anyone had suggestions for future meeting topics. Ideas included a presentation on assessments, including
 - An evaluation of how the initial PARC and CMAS testing went
 - The technological impact
 - Waivers
 - How these assessments will be funded and
 - What is in store in the future, taking into account the recent changes to the READ Act.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.

Sandra Brownrigg Recorder.

Handouts at meeting:

- ✓ Agenda
- ✓ Minutes
- ✓ Handouts
 - What is Curriculum?
 - Revised Bloom's Taxonomy Action Verbs
 - DCSD Expectations Regarding District Curriculum or Outcomes/Standards

1/20/15