



District Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 28, 2023 **Time:** 5:30 p.m. **Location:** District School Board Meeting Room, 100 N. 6th St. Dolores/Google Hangouts

Attendance: Staci Cost Co-Chair, Cara Meier Co-Chair, Reece Blincoe, Kim Parr, Anna Vaughn, Katherine Freeman, Shirley Tourjee, Mary Weiss, Molly Cooper, Virginia Johnson, Trish Huston, Deanna Truelson, Lucas Werner, Clay Tallmadge

I. Introduction of all members

II. Bond Initiative: Clay Tallmadge -

Clay – School Board

- Clay discussed the upcoming Bond special school board meeting.
- Purpose: To place the bond on the ballot for voting.
- Decision: The bond's fate depends on the votes received from the community.

Previous Year's Grant Application:

- Clay mentioned this year's application for the BEST Grand grant.
- 50 applications, We ranked in the middle, top 17 projects funded.
- We will reapply in the next grant cycle.

Experience with Bonds:

- Clay highlighted their experience with successful bond issues in the past.
- Examples: Funding locker rooms and science building, close to paying off the previous bond.

Building Design:

- The board approved the building design and advisory committee.
- Board considered community input, approved a 2-story high school building design.
- Upgraded entrances to reduce their number for better security.

50-Year Master Plan:

- Introduction of a comprehensive 50-year master plan.
- Note: Concept drawings were shown; not construction drawings.
- Community Costs: Outlined costs for residential and commercial properties, residential costs projected lower. This was shown in the mailer that went out

School Campaign Committee:

- A committee was formed to support the school campaign.
- Presentations to stakeholders, newspaper comments, yard signs.

- Historical Note: Previous bond passed by a narrow margin.

DAC's Role in Supporting Efforts: Question ask how can the DAC support

- Request: Help inform people about project details.
- Attend meeting 8/29 public library
- Project Details: \$28 million project, seeking \$10 million from the bond.

Contingency Planning:

- If the bond passes but the grant isn't obtained, both are necessary to start the project.
- Next BEST grant due in February.
- Consequence: Bond failure would delay the project for 2 years.
- Focus on informing the community about the bond and master plan.

III. DAC Monthly Meeting Process - timekeeper, notetaker, facilitator

IV. DAC Responsibilities - DAC Handbook, appointment and position terms

- All members appointed and approved by the board.
- Serve for 1 year term but can be reappointed
- Lucas will be approved at the next meeting.
- Focus on keeping meetings to one hour for efficiency. Time Keeper
- Designated note taker – Anna today others are welcome.
- Meeting divided into two parts: Cara leading the first, Staci leading the second.
- Co-Chair stair step concept to keep DAC moving forward and share responsibility is also a good way to train a new chair.
- Chairs have to be parents
- Guiding Documents reviewed and all documents can be found on the school website.
- DAC follows Colorado Department of Education (CDE) guidelines
- Roles and responsibilities discussed.
- Annual charge from the school board, expected to come from the September board meeting.
- Reviewed the checklist developed by the CDE that we can use for what the responsibilities are each year

V. Superintendent report: Dr. Reece Blincoe

Summer activities:

- Engineers assessed flood issues, potential cost \$700k+.
- Funding came up at the evaluation from The BESTGrant – didn't feel we addressed the issue enough.

Playground updates:

- Preschool has two good playgrounds with wood chips, district-funded.
- Focus on renovating the bigger playgrounds, committee at elementary school involved. Looking at solutions to get a new playground.
- Track and Field: The district is looking at a new track and field, but we need to look at drainage issues first. Grant and Bond need to pass first to fix the drainage before changes can happen to the track and field.

- Communication: The district is working on updating bios for all teachers, upgrading the website and app. Admin team working on improving website, app, and school pages.
- Student Survey:
- Dr. Blincoe wanted to bring for consideration the the DAC if the group can take on the student survey.
- He has seen no new charges added to the DAC this year
- Discussing whether to use state survey or develop own with the same company
- Dr. Blincoe feels the state survey has some questions that would upset this community when asked for an example he gave LGBTQ questions.
- Will also address social and emotional well-being.
- He feels the DAC may be the best committee to look at specific questions of the survey and decide which ones might be best or appropriate questions to ask.
- Molly clarified with Dr. Blincoe that the student survey results would be important for grant writing to assist the school and local non profits by gathering information and data for social, emotional learning, suicide awareness.
- Would a parent be able to see all the questions and opt their child out of taking the survey.
- Ask what the cost would be if we do not use the state but our own he needs to check could be \$8k
- Demo and webinar on Sept 13th would be good for DAC to attend
- **Discussion Point:** Cara asked for clarification about what Dr. Blincoe is asking the DAC: Dr. Blincoe clarified that he is asking if the DAC would like to take the student survey as part of our board charge - pre-asking. He wants to know if we would like to provide input or steward this. The student survey through Panorama will happen in April. This could be researched by the DAC to decide:
 - What does the state offer?
 - Can we customize the questions?
 - Can we utilize Panorama in the off years as the survey happens every other year?
 - Find out from Panorama what they can do for us.
 - Find out what the cost of the survey would be through Panorama?
- Attendance Issues: this is a major program that he is working with staff to address. Katherine Freeman is working with MTSS on this issue and will present it to the board in the September meeting.
- Mention of CMAS stayed about the same couldn't tell us right then how we compared to other schools in the area
- Upcoming Board Meeting: Sept 14th.
- Superintendent's involvement: big supporter of this committee will start and end the year attending DAC meetings always happy to attend others as requested/needed
- Requests for him or other staff to attend/present at DAC can be made via him.

VI. DAC Timeline - Overview of the 2023-2024 school year

- Staci creates monthly timelines.
- No meeting in December unless needed as a special request.

- January: DAC implements the Parent survey, Staff survey, and TLCC survey..
- Staci integrates board charge into the timeline and uses the CDE published checklist created for DAC.
- Formal reports to the board, in-person presentations at May or June meeting
- DAC has an advisory role to the school board to provide input on budget allocation and address the UIP.
- DAC uses the survey results to make recommendations to the board.

VII. Discussion on Student Survey: Cara led a discussion around if the groups felt we could take on the Student Survey as requested by Dr. Blincoe

The following points were made

- Does the DAC take on implementing the survey?
- Does the DAC provide feedback on a student survey?
- What information can we gain from having the survey every year or every other year?
- Will we see changes with every other year survey that the school district can make changes or will it be better to have data consistency and continuity?
- What is really done with the information provided by the current surveys?
- Over the years changes (hard changes) have been made based on survey feedback
- DAC has a lot on its plate. If we feel it's too much we should not attempt to take on more survey data.

Staci made a motion: to review survey tools, create a survey sub committee, and make recommendations to the board (if the board appoints the DAC) to give input on what student survey might be best to implement and how often, who to work with and when to distribute it.

Motion was 2nd

More discussion

- Question was asked if the student survey belongs with the school and the results shared with DAC to make recommendations from there.
- Undetermined at this time.
- Can have Panorama present directly to the DAC as an option regarding the parent survey.

VIII. Report to School Board - After each meeting the minutes will be shared with the school board members as a report each month.

IX. Future Business: Direction from the board will happen at the September board meeting. Family engagement. Communication. Finding volunteers for a survey sub-committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M. DAC's next regular meeting is planned for Monday, September 25, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. and will be held at the district office and on Google Meet.

Submitted by,
Staci Cost, DAC Co-Chair

