

# District Accountability Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	<b>April 6, 2010</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:55</b>
<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Teegan Sheanin</b>	<b>Scribe</b>	<b>Carie Anderson</b>
<b>Key Points Discussed</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Highlights</b>
1	Subcommittee Meetings 6:00-7:00		
2	Welcome & Introductions	Teegan Sheanin	
3	Approval of Minutes	Teegan Sheanin	Minutes approved for 3/2/10 meeting. Please use the following link to view previous meeting minutes: <a href="http://bvsd.org/dac/dacmembers/Pages/Minutes">http://bvsd.org/dac/dacmembers/Pages/Minutes</a>
4	Board Report	Jim Reed	<p>The board has been looking at the goals and whether to put the CSAP Growth Model in and have settled on the Growth Model as an indicator, as a measure of the achievement goal.</p> <p>Just as DAC has been looking at its bylaws, the board has been looking at its B Policies, which are essentially its bylaws. After 1 ½ years changes have finally passed. There were a lot of redundancies. Nothing new was added, it was reorganized for clarity and better use, trimming policies into a usable set.</p> <p>Met with some of the senior leadership in the district including some of the principals and asked, “How can the board be better supportive of closing the achievement gap?” They responded with research of what supports closing the achievement gap, such as late start and early release, more opportunities for early childhood education, lengthening of the school day and summer school (2-3 week program to keep kids from losing ground over the break) The board heard a lot of good ideas for attacking the achievement gap. We need to step up our efforts. While there is no funding for programs it is worth pursuing, given the research that is out there.</p>
5	Legislative Update	Briggs Gamblin	<p>The School Finance Act has passed both chambers. There is an issue that snagged it in the senate but it does not affect us. There are 7 school districts out of the 178 in Colorado that because of the size of their enrollment or their assessed valuation in property tax combined with overrides that have been passed, receive no state dollars. They are totally funding locally. Debate over whether they should take any sort of cut. Point made that because these are local dollars and any amount cut cannot be added to the state general fund there is not much point in it, so the compromise is that they would pay down their categoricals. There are 3 parts to the per pupil revenue, there is the base, the categoricals (i.e. ESL, SpEd) and the factors. The act passed the senate and was assumed that the house sponsor (Rep. Christine Scanlon) would concur and it would be sent to the governor but she decided that she wanted her people to look at it so she did not concur and has requested a conference committee. Although at this point this issue does not affect us, when things go into conference committee other issues may open up. The long bill (state budget bill) has gone through the house and is in the senate right now. Ironically, because the senate is considering the long bill they have not yet named the senate members for the conference committee for school finance. They have to get through the long bill first and then hopefully by early next week will have members appointed and then the following week submit the conference report to each house, it cannot</p>

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5 cont.	Legislative Update	Briggs Gamblin	<p>be amended, it is voted up or down and then we hope, will be off to the governor.</p> <p>Lastly, there is speculation that because the March 19<sup>th</sup> revenue report was the first in 7 quarters to come back with larger than expected revenues, there are some, especially in the democratic caucus that are suggesting to reduce cuts but is not getting support from the governor or republicans and a most of the democrats. They are uncomfortable with it because there is still a final quarter to report in June and they want to keeping funds to 1) balance out the 10-11 budget, or if it not needed 2) help with the 2011-12 budget ,which will still be difficult with the exit of federal stimulus dollars.</p> <p>Moving about 3 weeks ahead of last year, showing confidence in the revenue forecasts.</p> <p>Dr. King and Dr. Anderson from Monarch High School were in a 9 News report today about the budget cuts. Reported that BVSD is at 10 million right now which is bad, but a testament to the kind of year it has been and expressed relief that it is 10 million instead of the 20 million that was talked about in January.</p> <p>Question: Has there been talk of using lottery funds? Briggs: There has been talk, it would have been easier to consider this when the lottery was initiated 20 years ago but since then there has been a constitutional amendment that was passed and it makes it difficult to tap those funds. So it was looked at but did not gain much traction. If next year is worse, they may look again at this and other things that were not looked at this year.</p> <p>Question: Is the 10 million the “level one” cut for BVSD? Chris King: For schools, the contribution is a level 1 for the district it is a level 2 (13.5%) different from the schools level 2– after the last time that DAC met, we cut 24 jobs, 3.2 million out of the district building.</p> <p>Comment: Some of the colleges around are talking about cutting the faculty and not the administration and wanted to commend BVSD for taking that seriously and thank you for doing that.</p>
6	Proposed By-Law Changes to DAC Exec Structure	Teegan Sheanin	<p>Jennie Whitcomb was to present proposed changes to be voted on at the next meeting but was unable to attend. Changes were summarized by Teegan, which are explained in the Bylaws Subcommittee Report here: (Page 3, Appendix 2) <a href="#">2008-09 Bylaws Subcommittee Final Report</a></p>
7	DAC Membership/Leadership for 2010-11	Teegan Sheanin	<p>Passing around document for DAC members to indicate if they are returning or not, any possible replacements and interest in DAC Exec for the 2010-11 year.</p>

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8	SIPR Subcommittee Report	<p>Teegan Sheanin (Introduction)          Brian Yost (Presentation)</p>	<p>Teegan: The SIPR subcommittee has been working on the process we use to review the school improvement plans. They have some suggestions for changes to be made next year. The proposed changes were sent out via email and can be found here: <a href="#">SIPR Plan - Version 6</a></p> <p>This committee has been working very hard to create a mechanism by which we can provide feedback during the process and better evaluate the process that schools are going through in their school improvement plan creation. Some of this has come from a desire for us not to only see the end product and to hold schools accountable for community involvement and parent engagement in the process as it's happening. It's not difficult to have a parent present at interview night, having them there does not necessarily indicate engaged participation in the process. This is the subcommittees best thinking so far on how best to address this. We would like to have a general consensus as a group so that we can present this to the principals.</p> <p>Brian: In the last few years there has been feedback regarding interview night, enough feedback that SIPR made it the main focus for the subcommittee. The goal was to look at if or how it could be improved while meeting the legal requirement of DAC to review and approve the plans. Make it more interactive. Interview night is at the tail end of the process so you are only seeing the written product, which we will still plan to do. The feedback to the school seems late because the product is already complete. Is there a way for us to give feedback at the point that they are putting the plan together that would be more meaningful and easier to incorporate? Our thinking is to try to accommodate a meeting in September when the SAC team will be working on the School Improvement Plan and the DAC member from that school will already be there and have a partner DAC member from another school attend the meeting and be able to interact with that team. The level of interaction would vary, as it does for interview night, for new DAC members. The benefit of doing it earlier in the process is that you have an opportunity to observe and get clarification on the parent engagement piece. Are there parents on the SAC? What is the level of engagement? Another benefit is seeing what another school does and being able to take things away from that to benefit your own school, a chance for better information sharing. We would still review the written plan and use the same rubric. The biggest change is having to go to another SAC meeting in September and there is some logistics that need to be worked out with partnering schools.</p> <p>Optional possibility of returning to the partner school in February to gauge their progress, to close the loop and see what has been implemented and what's working.</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Concerns</b></p> <p>Concern – Principals tend to dominate interview night, it may be worse in a situation where you are now in their school with additional SAC members as well. It may change the process.</p> <p>Concern – You spoke of logistics but also consider that a majority of SAC meetings are scheduled during business hours and it is already difficult to get time off of work to attend one SAC meeting getting additional time to attend another will be that much tougher.</p>
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8 cont.	SIPR Subcommittee Report	Teegan Sheanin & Brian Yost	<p>Question – Can Jonathan encourage principals to schedule meetings later to accommodate more people? - Because part of what it seems that you want to do is observe the process as it happens and if you change the meeting time you are no longer observing the process as it happens. You will have different SAC members that attend and the process will not be the same. The solution is to try and pair folks with a school that has a meeting that they could make. If we find that all schools have meetings during the day we will have to take another look at the proposal.</p> <p>Question – What assumptions are being made about what happens at everyone's SAC meetings? All SAC's are completely different and this is what we want to see. You can't tell their differences in interview night. Diversity can be helpful.</p> <p>Concern – There are schools that seek feedback on the writing of the SIP during the interview night. There is a fear that this would be the same or worse in this scenario with schools wanting help to write the SIP or give some sort of pre-approval when you are supposed to be an observer.</p> <p>Concern – To ask DAC members to attend another meeting in September when they are already involved with their own schools SIP process and DAC is a big time commitment in a one month time period and is asking a lot of your volunteer corps.</p> <p>Comment – Applaud the effort, especially to make DAC more a part of the process. Another positive aspect is that you are lending structure and weight to the new legislature that has much more specific requirements for SACs.</p> <p>Concern – With regard to pairing schools, you intend to pair schools that are similar but in my experience a really positive affect of serving on DAC is working with schools that are very unlike my own. It has broadened my perspective as a DAC member and as a citizen and parent. It is helpful to us as individuals as well as helpful to the process. So it something I would hope we would consider as we move forward, that we try not to lose that.</p> <p>Concern – I am very involved in the process at my school. And assuming that I would be the senior member of my partnership I would be reviewing my own SIP and potentially having a new member review it when I would really want another senior member to look at it and give feedback. – I would argue that the same problems would arise with interview night with a new person. There are going to be difficulties no matter how we slice it up.</p> <p>Comment – This is a really good document. It addresses the weak components of interview night. The things that stand out are 1) that we only need to review one other school besides our own. Having participated in interview night for the last 4 years and reviewing the same schools each year, I knew there plans infinitely better than my own even though I had been as involved in the process as a parent can be. 2) Progressively over the last four years we have moved our focus within the balance</p>
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		<p>of Process vs. Substance too far to the process (i.e. If everything is in the right order, can you draw a thread through all of the inquiries) This (proposal) would allow us to provide substantive feedback without being confrontational and negative. Coming in earlier in the process prevents us from just being a “rubber stamp”.</p> <p>Teegan: To clarify the “rubber stamp” issue – recommendations that come from DAC following interview night are followed up by the district. The interview night is not the end piece. Schools may have to make changes or rewrite their plans.</p> <p>Also as clarification to the concern about the principals dominating the meeting and not being able to give feedback at the meeting, while feedback at that meeting would be good if possible, you are there to observe and interact as wanted and really to take in what their process is and still provide feedback in the write up or share with your partner DAC rep.</p> <p>Concern: Not having enough DAC members, how do you plan to encourage representation for those schools that don't have DAC reps? The changes at the state level will help with that, the At Large members could be used and at the end of it, if we have to, some of the more senior members may have to partner with more than one school.</p> <p>Comment: One of the challenges for schools to be designated as exceeds expectations vs. meets expectations is not only having parent/community engagement but <u>diverse</u> engagement and because currently most members of SACs are fairly homogenous it is difficult to accomplish. By virtue of principals knowing that the DAC member will be there to observe the principals my put more effort into having a diverse group of people involved which is a great benefit.</p> <p>Question: What are our objectives? Observing? Providing feedback? - Jonathan, I will sharpen proposal to principals to say that the level of feedback will depend on when the DAC rep is plugging into the process. At minimum observing. Use your partner to gauge what your level of involvement might be based on where the school is in the process.</p> <p>What we have heard so far is that we need to iron out a few things with the logistics but that we are feeling like this can go to the principals for their feelings. By a show of thumbs up or down to take this to the principals.</p> <p>Thumbs: 17 – Up    6 – In between    0 - Down</p>
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9	Due Date for Final Reports	Teegan Sheanin	Final Reports are due to DAC Exec by April 16 for Accountable Programs and Communications subcommittees.
10	Budget Subcommittee Report	Bill Sutter (Introduction) & Charles Tucker (Presentation)	<p>Bill: Handout given with pages 3 &amp; 4 of report. Entire report found here: <a href="#">DRAFT Budget Subcommittee Report</a></p> <p>The subcommittee worked hard on this, structurally we put all of the cuts that the schools provided into a spreadsheet by level and did percentages on the numbers and gave that to the subcommittee. Procedurally how this has gone in past years is that the subcommittee puts a draft report together and then is presented to DAC at the April meeting and then DAC agrees (or not) to send draft recommendation on to the board for use at the April 20<sup>th</sup> budget worksession. Then the final report is voted on at the May meeting with any changes that may need to have been made.</p> <p>Chuck explains report – presented by PowerPoint, slides available as part of the report above.</p> <p>Recommendations are made to be incorporated into report prior to submission to board. Updated document will be provided via email.</p> <p>Jim Reed: Very big thank you as someone who is going to be voting on these issues very soon, as things finally come to the board level meetings and will be visible on TV for everyone. We so much appreciate everything that everyone has done this year, your thoughtful approach. I know this was difficult at schools in part because they have never done this before but DAC as a group empowers the schools . Again, a big thank you and I look forward to your final recommendations.</p> <p>By show of thumbs – majority up to send forward draft report with changes.</p>
11	Meeting Adjourned	Teegan Sheanin	08:55:00 PM