

# District Accountability (DAC) November 2020 Newsletter



## UPCOMING DATES:

- November 3, 2020  
Election Day
- November 5, 2020,  
SAC Training, via  
Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- November 19, 2020  
Full DAC Meeting,  
via Webex,  
6:00—8:00pm
- November 23—  
November 27, 2020  
Thanksgiving Break

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## Welcome

### WE ARE THANKFUL!

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) is thankful for everyone who is working for students and families to help make learning successful in our current environment. The DAC and its sub-committees are operating diligently in fulfilling the various Board of Education approved charges. I want to thank everyone at the DAC for coordinating, organizing, and conducting regular meetings to discuss relevant topics of impact that affect our district, schools, and students. We are all in this together.

At the October meeting, the DAC took a look at the Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS) Guidebook and got an update about the MTSS work being done in the district. An overview of the Inventa Academy Charter School Application, which is currently being reviewed by the Charter School Review Subcommittee was presented. We also had a discussion about how the year is starting off for our SACs. Some SACs are seeing better attendance with the use of on-line meetings. Some of our SACs are still struggling to get families to attend. We want to hear how SACs are doing and what we can do to support you.

The DAC Accreditation Subcommittee looked at the Universal Screener Data and DIBELS data from the start of the year. The subcommittee also looked at the numbers from count day and an update on the Hoonuit tool.

The DAC Budget Subcommittee met for the first time in October. They got an update on the Fiscal Year 19/20 Draft Audited Financial Statement and an update on the Fiscal Year 20/21 Budget Outlook.

The DAC Charter School Review Subcommittee is working on the review of the application and video from Inventa Academy. A recommendation, based on the review, will be going to the Board of Education this month. The recommendation will also be approved by the DAC.

The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee finalized the agenda for the November 5th on-line training session. Topics will include current staffing challenges, a new prototype model for Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs), READ Act information, Trauma Informed Care, and an update on security personnel in middle and high schools. The DAC highly recommends multiple SAC members, school administrators, and school community attend this important educational session.

Lastly, as Veterans Day approaches the DAC wants to thank all our active duty military members and veterans for their daily service and sacrifice. We salute you. We encourage SACs, parents, and community members to support our veterans.

I know I have so much to be thankful for. On behalf of the DAC, I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving!

Velvet Stepanek

Chair – District Accountability Committee



## News & Notes

### **School Choice Window—(November 2—February 13)**

District 11 schools offer unique and exceptional educational opportunities. The Board of Education recognizes that students may benefit from having a choice of schools to attend that is not limited to school boundaries. Both in-district and out-of-district students may enroll in programs or schools within District 11, on a space available basis. **The Choice Open Enrollment Window for 2021-2022 opens November 2nd and runs through February 13th. The electronic form will be available November 2nd at 6:00 a.m.**

This opportunity will allow parents/guardians to choose the best school for their child(ren) based on needs and program opportunities.

#### **To apply:**

- Complete a Choice Open Enrollment Form and submit the form to the school they wish to have their student attend.
- The Choice Open Enrollment application can be found at:  
<https://fs25.formsite.com/34xo8F/uyv82ubmuh/index.html>  
(English)

<https://fs25.formsite.com/34xo8F/uyv82ubmuh/index.html>  
(Spanish)

#### **Board Policies:**

To view the Board policies regarding Choice Open Enrollment go to:

**JFBA/JFBB—** <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA%20JFBB.pdf>—School Choice—Open Enrollment and Transfers which contains information on:

- ◆ Elective special programs (IB, SAIL etc.)
- ◆ Special programs (special education, Title I etc.)
- ◆ Employee Choice/Open Enrollment
- ◆ Transfers
- ◆ Athletics

**JFBA/JFBB-R—** <https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/69/SectionJ/JFBA%20JFBA-R.pdf>

—Regulation that contains information on:

- ◆ Processing Open Enrollment Choice Applications
- ◆ Appeal procedure

## News & Notes (Continued)



Join the Conversation Live on the [D11 Facebook page](#)

### DATES AND TOPICS:

- Nov. 19—Moving Forward During the Pandemic
- Dec. 8—Learning in the Pandemic Age: How to help your student online, in-person, and in life
- Jan. 7—Student and Staff Wellness
- Feb. 9—Emerging Stronger than Before COVID: Schools at the Center of a Community Ecosystem
- March 4—Taking the Pulse: Community Thoughts for Moving Forward

For more information go to the link below:

<https://www.d11.org/BeyondTheMask>

The first conversation on November 19th will contain the topic:

Moving Forward: Where have we been? Where are we going? Moving the District Forward with Plans for Equity, Academics, and Facilities.

### Citizens' Review of Instructional Materials & Secondary Courses

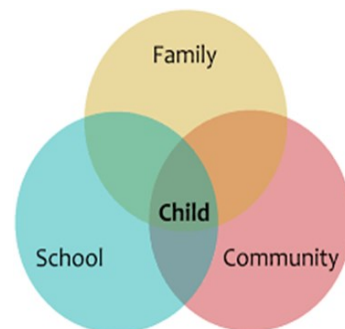
- Colorado Springs School District 11 will host a public review of new instructional materials & secondary courses submitted for the approval of the Board of Education. All community members are welcome to review the proposed instructional materials & new/edited courses.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, onsite review at the D11 Central Administration building is not available.
- D11 staff have developed a new digital review and approval process. As part of this process, public reviews can now be done electronically from October 26, 2020 through November 6, 2020. Please refer to the following link to review materials:

<https://www.d11.org/Page/6036>

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Family-School-Community Partnerships:

- Check out the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Family-School-Community Partnerships page at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/familyengagement>.
- The page features videos on 28 successful partnerships, developing partnerships in a COVID 19 environment, and much more. The sixth (2020) edition of Promising Partnership Practices is available at <https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/promising-partnership-practices-book-2020>.
- It highlights real-life stories about how 38 schools, districts, and institutes of higher education across Colorado are working with families.



### Friday Night Notes:

Reminder, the D11 weekly electronic newsletter, Friday Night Notes, is now available on line at <https://www.d11.org/fnn>. A key section is the Leadership Levers, a tips and advice communication from the Executive Directors of School Leadership to principals. Checking out the weekly Friday Night Notes is a good way to stay current on District activities and guidance.

### *Happy Veterans Day!*



*“A true hero isn’t measured by the size of his strength, but by the strength of his heart.”—Hercules*

## News & Notes (Continued)

### Sponsor A Wreath Wreaths Across America



**We're on a mission to remember, honor and teach. Join us by sponsoring a wreath to be placed in honor of a veteran this December. We'll ensure that their sacrifice is remembered yet again and passed on to a new generation of Americans.**

Each wreath costs \$15.00. There is no limit on how many wreaths you would like to sponsor. You may also designate a different cemetery for which these wreaths are to be placed. The main fundraising group for this activity will be North Middle School. These funds will be used to cover the costs for our Fairview Cemetery Veterans Project. If you want the wreath grave specific, please contact Esther Smith and let her know which grave you want the wreath placed. If you would like a wreath placed to thank a veteran for their service, please send their name and address to Esther Smith. She will write a personal thank you note informing them a wreath was sponsored for their service to our nation.

There are 3 ways to sponsor a wreath. You can go to our website at: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/163773/Overview/?relatedId=43750>. You may also sponsor wreaths by writing out a check to North Middle School or paying cash. Please indicate these funds are for Wreaths Across America. North Middle School will take care of ordering the wreaths. The deadline to order any wreath will be November 30.

North Middle School will be placing these wreaths at Fairview Cemetery on Saturday, December 19. There are approximately 475 veterans ranging from the Civil War to current times buried at this cemetery. We want to remember all of them. If you would like to volunteer to help place these wreaths, please contact Esther Smith at [esther.smith@d11.org](mailto:esther.smith@d11.org). We are limited to a maximum of 50 volunteers as this cemetery is small. Parking is very limited at Fairview Cemetery. You can park your car at Bott Park and walk about 2 blocks or along the fence outside the cemetery. We ask that you not park inside the cemetery. We thank you for your support of this valuable event and hope you are able to volunteer. This is a fabulous opportunity to honor our veterans, both past and present.

### SAC WebEx Training Session Thursday, November 5, 2020 6 – 8 PM

Be sure to check out the next SAC Training Session which will take place as a WebEx video conference 6 – 8 PM on Thursday November 5, 2020. Topics include:

- Staffing Challenges
- New Prototype Model for USIP
- READ Act
- Trauma-informed Care Through the Lens of the Neurosequential Model in Education: Creating the Foundation of Learning
- D11 Security Operations Department Overview

Please forward the WebEx invite to all SAC members and interested parties. If you did not receive the SAVE THE DATE notice or the WebEx invite by email, please contact Trudy at [trudy.tool@d11.org](mailto:trudy.tool@d11.org).

#### Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs

- READ Act: Acadience Reading (DIBELS Next) Middle of Year (MOY) K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade testing (Nov 30 – Dec 18th)
- Galileo K-12: Universal Screener (grades 3-5) #2 (Nov 30 – Dec 18th)
- Any budget/funding recommendations for 20-21 must be submitted to DAC by Feb 1, 2020 (Reference Regulation AE-R-2, (SAC By-laws) Purpose section, Item 8).

#### SAC Agenda Planning – November (Theme: Achievement Gaps)

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics that meet the broad responsibilities of School District 11 SACs. This is just a reference tool and individual SACs should tailor agendas appropriate to their school needs and emphasis. The following are some of the agenda topics that are recommended for the November SAC meeting:

- Review/discuss components of the school's 2020-2021 draft USIP which address achievement gaps. What Multi-tier Support System (MTSS) tools is the school using, e.g. differentiation, blended learning, tutoring? Has the school staff been fully trained in MTSS and the D11 MTSS Handbook?
- Review instructional supports for MTSS/RTI Tier 2 and Tier 3 students including support for Gifted and Talented (GT) and English Language Learner (ELL) students
- Review MTSS Early Warning System school summary data on attendance/absenteeism, discipline, and academic concerns
- Review fall test results for Acadience Reading (DIBELS Next), Achieve 3000, and/or Galileo K-12 Universal Screener as appropriate/compare with draft USIP academic targets.
- Review/discuss the school's focus on parent strategies for individual student support. Are most parents/guardians using the student information system Q, parent access to Schoology, and/or the new D-11 mobile app to monitor daily student assignments and progress? Has the trend on use been increasing? Do teachers use these systems effectively to inform and maintain contact with parents?



## Good Things Happening in the District

“Nothing teaches  
hope, kindness,  
courage and  
compassion like  
helping others”  
Anonymous

### District

#### 2020-2021 Colorado Department of Education’s Principal Leadership Institute

- Congratulations to Rudy Elementary School Principal, Julie Fahey, and Jenkins Middle School Principal, Darren Joiner, who were selected to be principal coaches for the 2020-2021 Colorado Department of Education’s Principal Leadership Institute.
- The Principal Leadership Institute is a one-year, completely virtual program where principal participants will work alongside exemplary principals using a coaching framework. The program will include actionable leadership seminars, monthly workshops, and coaching sessions with principal coaches, all in a virtual environment. The philosophy of this model builds in high levels of support for leaders, via principal coaches, throughout the program to sustain and integrate the skills and behaviors learned throughout the seminar. Congratulations to Ms. Fahey and Mr. Joiner for their outstanding leadership!

#### **Mural Unveiling and dedication ceremony for Sam Dunlap**

- A mural unveiling and dedication ceremony took place on October 10, 2020 to honor Colorado springs native and local icon Sam Dunlap at John Adams park from 3:00—5:00pm
- Mr. Dunlap, a Palmer HS Alumni, was a community member that was heavily involved with District 11, serving on multiple committees over the years. Encouraging and supporting youth was a lifelong priority of Mr. Dunlap, and his positive influence was vast.



### Doherty HS

- Doherty High School won the Friday Night Blitz Spirit Award from NewsChannel 13. The award information can be seen on youtube at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1xfNPCYTxU>

### Jenkins MS

- Congratulations to Jenkins counselor, William Janas, who was awarded the Colorado Middle School Counselor of the Year by the Colorado School Counselor Association. Mr. Janas has been a counselor at Jenkins MS for 15 years.
- Jenkins middle school is part of the episode of Math at Work Olympic addition on youtube. You can find the episode at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nbn8yi7JRFA>

## Good Things Happening in the District (continued)



### Madison Elementary School

- The Madison Morning News on the school website homepage contains videos of their morning announcements. The students get to be part of these announcements. To view the Morning News see link below:

<https://www.d11.org/Domain/20>

### Mitchell High School

- Holly Haverkorn, teacher at Mitchell High School is one of the finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year. Information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cotoy2020finalist>

### Palmer High School

The Palmer Boys Cross Country Team placed 9th at the State Championship. Congratulations!

### Penrose Elementary School

Congratulations to Penrose counselor, Brooke Morgan, who was awarded the Colorado Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Colorado School Counselor Association. Ms Morgan has been a counselor at Penrose for 4 years.



Please send good things happening at your school to Trudy Tool at [Trudy.Tool@d11.org](mailto:Trudy.Tool@d11.org)