

District Accountability (DAC) October Newsletter



OCTOBER 2019

UPCOMING DATES:

- **October 6, 2020,**
Training & SAC Support Meeting, via WebEx
6:00—7:30pm
- **October 14, 2020,**
DAC Membership/ Charges will go to the Board as a non-action item
- **October 15, 2020,**
Full DAC Meeting, via WebEx,
6:00—8:00pm
- **November 5, 2020,**
SAC Training, via WebEx,
6:00—8:00pm

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Welcome

Fall is in the air. As the leaves are changing, we know this school year will be a year of changes and adjustments. One thing that has not changed is our commitment to do what is best for all students. We are thankful for all our principals, teachers, and staff that are working endlessly to help students academically and keep them safe. As many families are going back to in-person learning, there are some of our families that have chosen to stay remote. The District Accountability Committee (DAC) and School Accountability Committees (SACs) are working hard to look at what is best for every student.

The DAC has focused the start of the school year on how remote learning is going. We will continue to focus on what is being done for the social, emotional and academic success of all our students by supporting SACs. Please keep students forefront in your mind as you look at your school improvement plans (USIP).

The District also requested DAC's input in reviewing a new Charter School application. A committee of six members was formed to discuss the need, impact, and overall viability of this Charter School. The committee will report its findings to the full DAC and to the District and BOE shortly after that.

The District also needs a citizen/parent representative on the D-11 Audit committee. This committee performs ongoing reviews to assure the District's financial plans are carried out, financial policies and procedures are observed, assets are accounted for and records and reports are reliable. This committee meets 4-5 times a year. If you have an interest please let us know.

The DAC had the pleasure of hosting the first of four SAC Training Sessions on September 24. The DAC was excited to do our first on-line training. We had 70 attendees with representatives from 27 of our schools. It was a pleasure to exchange information with so many SAC and administration representatives from D11 schools including several of our charter schools. We are in the process of analyzing how it went to better advance the communication between us. We look forward to seeing more schools participate at our next SAC training session on November 5th.

The DAC reached out to all principals offering help from the DAC to support SACs. After this offer, I have had the pleasure to attend several SAC meetings and answer questions for SAC Chairs and principals. I am thankful for the leadership and the willingness to serve at every one of our schools. Thank you for volunteering your time to help your school community.

We are continuing on our mission to open channels of communication between all District stakeholders. We thank you for your support and request your input/ feedback. If you have material that can add value to this newsletter, please share it with us. Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns regarding this newsletter or your responsibilities as a SAC.

Sincerely,
Velvet Stepanek
Chair-District Accountability Committee



“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”
DeAnn Hollis

Opportunity to Share Ideas/Give Input

From Devra Ashby, Chief Communications Officer

It is critical for School District 11 leaders to continue to engage with our community. The pandemic has changed how engagement may look in the coming months, but D11 leaders know it’s important to maintain levels of trust with our community by continuing to receive feedback from district stakeholders. What does engagement look like for you and your family? Do you prefer to participate in virtual meetings, online surveys, social media, or in small, socially distanced in-person meetings? Do you have topics you’d like to see addressed in future engagement sessions? Share your thoughts with us by emailing resource.community@d11.org. Responses will help the District plan future relevant and engaging sessions. Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas!

Opportunity to Serve on Audit Committee

- The District is in need of a citizen/parent representative on the D-11 Audit committee.
- This committee performs ongoing reviews to assure the District’s financial plans are carried out, financial policies and procedures are observed, assets are accounted for and records and reports are reliable.
- This committee meets 4-5 times a year.

If you have an interest please contact Kathy Box at Kathleen.Box@d11.org

Remember to Vote

- District 11 has a ballot issue (4A) on the ballot for the election taking place on November 3, 2020
- October 9, 2020—Ballots start to get mailed out to active voters
- October 19, 2020—Drop boxes open to start accepting ballots
- October 26, 2020—Last day to mail your ballot back
- November 3, 2020—Last day to vote—ballots must be received by 7pm





Join the Community Conversation. Lend your voice to building a future for Colorado Springs' children!

- Colorado Springs School District 11 (D11) is embarking on a 20 Year Facilities Master Plan (FMP) to identify and prioritize the current and future needs of our district facilities. The essential outcome is to create a plan and identify the funding needed to provide equitable access to world-class facilities for all D11 stakeholders.
- D11 is seeking the community of Colorado Springs to join us in building this plan that will serve future generations of Colorado Springs children.
- Two sessions are planned for community dialogue. The first round of community dialogue is in October and the second will be in January.
- For the October sessions, please join the conversation either virtually or in person on Monday, October 12th and/or Tuesday, October 13th (see attached schedule with virtual links--**you may need to copy and paste the desired meeting link into your browser**).
- **In order to attend an in-person session, you must reserve your seat by completing this survey:** [D11 FMP Attendance Survey](#)
- If you are attending an in-person session, you must wear an adequate mask that covers your mouth and nose and will be required to take a health screening survey prior to entry.
- Each session will last between an hour and a half to two hours, will begin with a 20 to 30 minute presentation, and then community conversation for questions, insights, and ideas and help build a framework for the long-term facilities plan.
- Please see the attached schedule and mark your calendars (you may need to copy and paste the desired meeting link into your browser). As stated, you may join in person or from the comfort of your home. Either way, we are looking forward to your input.
- The January session schedules will be communicated at a later date.
- To view the document regarding Community dialogue—Facilities Master Plan see link below:

[Facilities Master Plan Community Dialogue Sessions.pdf](#)



SAC News & Updates

SAC Resources Updates

The following key resources for SACs have been updated for 2020 and are available at <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>

- D11 SAC Handbook for 2020-2021
- D11 SAC Budget Training Handbook 2020 – 2021 <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>.
- Colorado Dept. of Education (CDE) DAC/SAC Handbook (updated Sep 2020)
- The CDE website “Resources for Parents” page – provides access to DAC and SAC resources plus a wide range of instruction/curriculum/test and parent engagement resources:
- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Resourcesforparents>.
- See also http://www.cde.state.co.us/uiip/sac_dac for a great listing of ideas and resources for SAC operations including dealing with COVID-19 pandemic challenges.
- The D11 Return to Learn webpage at <https://www.d11.org/domain/5173> is one of the best sources for Return to Learn guidance and COVID-19 related guidance for schools. It is updated frequently so check it every few days.

SAC Training Session Sep 24, 2020

The first SAC training of the 2020-2021 school year took place via a WebEx Session on September 24, 2020. This was a new large group video conference session necessitated by COVID 19 protocols. We want to thank all of the school SACs who attended and thank the Administration, DAC, and school presenters/ personnel for their great support. We had an excellent turnout—a total of 70 attendees representing over 27 schools. We had three excellent presentations with follow-up question and answer sessions;

- Superintendent Michael J. Thomas: Return to Learn plans – D11 Vision and response to challenges
- Director Cory Notestine: Guidance to schools on COVID-19 protocols and latest county/state guidance
- Dr. David Khaliqi and EDSS team: Unified School Improvement Plans (USIPs) for 20-21 – D11 Vision, Goals and Progress monitoring for 20-21

SAC Training Session Thursday, November 5, 2020

The next SAC Training Session will take place as a WebEx video conference 6 – 8 PM on Thursday November 5, 2020. We are hoping to do at least one common video session and possibly two or more “breakout” sessions where attendees transfer to the appropriate WebEx sub-session. We are working on a number of topics of direct interest to SACs. More information will follow soon. SAVE THE DATE.

SAC News & Updates (Continued)



"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."



JANE D. HULL

www.coloradoparentingmatters.org

Key Deadlines of Interests to SACs

- Mid to late Oct 2020: All schools receive feedback on initial USIP and make updates as appropriate
- Nov 5, 2020: Second 2020 SAC Training Session 6:00 – 8:00 PM via WebEx
- Nov 30 – Dec 18, 2020: (Elementary only) Second round of Galileo K-12 Universal Screener testing

SAC Meeting Agenda Planning

Every month we intend to provide a reasonable flow of SAC agenda topics for the month 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 October SAC meeting;

Train SAC on USIP elements (as needed) – finalize USIP [Note: this version should include adjustments for COVID-19 protocols and related instructional modifications as well as availability of progress monitoring data, e.g. Galileo K-12 Universal Screener data and aligned test question databases. For more information see the Educational Data and Support Service (EDSS) presentation, *Data Available from the District 11 Benchmark Assessments*, at <https://www.d11.org/Page/5868>

- Review/discuss School Readiness plan for kindergarten and READ Act implementation, funding, and student status/results (ES only)
- Review school focus on Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs) and new graduation requirements approved by D-11 Board of Ed. in fall 2020 (MS & HS only)
- Review progress monitoring data results (if available) and compare against USIP
- Review Power BI Early Warning System data since start of school and identify areas of concern in academics, discipline and attendance (available from principal).

Good Things Happening in the District



There are so many good things happening in the District!

Below are just a few . . .

District

The Crystal Apple Teacher Award program is sponsored by the El Paso Council PTA. The award is a tribute to quality teaching and provides examples for outstanding youth to encourage them to choose teaching as a career.

Congratulations to the 2020 winners—

2020 Winners

Becca Daugherty – Fremont Elementary School

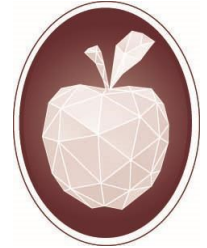
Richelle Gittens – Queen Palmer Elementary School

Lori Koeser – Jenkins Middle School

Bart Man – Penrose Elementary School

Becky Marsh – Sabin Middle School

Jason Smits – Doherty High School



The virtual ceremony took place on September 29, 2020

<https://www.d11.org/Page/16333>

Midland ES

Midland ES “meet the staff” looked different this year, but they did an excellent job preparing a PowerPoint for parents to meet the staff. See PowerPoint here:

<https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/21/Back%20to%20School%20Midland%20Powerpoint.pdf>

Queen Palmer ES

- Queen Palmer Elementary School received a very generous donation from Office Depot totaling \$4,773.26 to go towards additional sneeze guards, desk shields, student, and teacher supplies to ensure a safe and successful school year!
- Queen Palmer also received a generous donation of \$1200 Sertoma, Inc. (an organization of service clubs founded on April 11, 1912)

Scott ES

Mountain West conference gave Carla Moore a teacher from Scott Elementary a \$1000 grant for the great work in keeping kids learning. You can see the presentation at;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=zJLhYOCijj4&app=desktop>