

DRAFT

District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC)

April 29, 2014 - Minutes

Purpose of D.A.A.C.:

The law mandates that each school district has a District Accountability Advisory Committee to set and oversee goals, address concerns about schools and the district as a whole. The DAAC meets monthly in the Education Service Center with representatives from each school and District and Board of Education representation.

The meeting was called to order by chair Dana Palmer at 6:00 p.m.

After discussion of the item on District Leadership and Survey, the agenda was approved by consensus. The minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting were approved by consensus.

Administration Update - Peter Hilts –

- Continuing to work on the public input phase of the Capital Planning Committee (CPC) – zone based meetings have been conducted – the new Director of Communications, Matt Meister, has been present at most of them
- Finished the Big Rocks survey – brought results to CPC on Apr. 22 and took another look at the list of projects, which was presented to the Board of Education on Apr. 23. The new proposal is \$143 million, with projects in every zone – The CPC also presented a unique concept to the BOE– have existing mill levy override (MLO) specified to fund Certificate of Participation (COP) to build buildings. Rather than ask for new money on top on current MLO, ask to remove restrictions from the 2005 MLO – to use money for other purposes. Ask for a 2031 sunset to allow collection for a longer period of time to fund COP for longer time to free up money now without raising taxes. Architects will analyze the list of projects to determine more accurate cost estimates. The MLO Oversight Committee will make recommendation. After getting more clarity on the numbers, the BOE will direct next steps.
- The Falcon Education Foundation Dinner was a nice community event and was a success. With just under \$18K raised, the FEF raises more money than other foundations in surrounding districts.

Chair Update – Dana Palmer – Parent Engagement Subcommittee ICAP and READ plans will start at ground one – what does it look like what is ICAP and READ plan – possible to work with Erica Mason – maybe pilot in Falcon Zone and use PTAs – free food – still open for participation

Guest – Paul Lundeen – State Board of Education update:

- There was a question on how the state board of education can overturn the local BOE decision not to approve a charter school application when the process was followed. The charter school board can appeal the district's decision to the state board. The SBOE generally wants to see education reform and is supportive of charter schools. Charters have the best ability to change the way education looks 10 years from now. Paul's brother-in-law is Brad Miller, so Paul had to reclude himself from the decision on the charter school application. The SBOE tends to be supportive of charters.

- There was concern that the state advocates for local control, but in this case when a decision was made by the local board it gets overruled. Mr. Lundeen indicated that parent control is “local” control. Al Coxe indicated Falcon School District is very friendly towards charters, so he felt unheard. Mr. Lundeen appreciates the effort. Al asked Paul to express our concerns to the other members of the SBOE.
- The implementation of the Common Core Standards continues. By 2016 there will be another round of looking at what standards will be used. Mr. Hilts shared that CMAS testing is part of how Colorado is complying with science and social studies. PARCC testing for language arts and math will come on line next year. Our district has not taken opposition on either assessment at this time.
- The legislature is working through the budget and Paul feels that money should go to districts with as much flexibility as possible. He complimented D-49 as an example of how it can work well.
- Mr. Lundeen gave encouragement to D-49 as being a beacon by trying to keep money going to the buildings. He appreciates the energy and value of our DAAC. It gives parents hope that their voice can be heard and have a positive impact.

Unfinished Business

Teacher salary historical update – Paul Andersen, Director of Human Resources, and Kim Steeves, licensed staff liaison, provided an overview of salaries during the four years of freezes. A handout was provided.

New Business

1. The Budget subcommittee members, Jess McAllister, Brett Ridgway, and Randy Feola, provided an update on priorities. Lists were sent in by schools – there was some correlation between the lists, such as common core math. The presentation will be put on the DAAC Wiki.
- There was a question about outsourcing – the district does get competitive prices or bids anything over \$25K.
2. School finance campaign – The Capital Planning Committee presented to the BOE on Apr. 23. The BOE wanted more information on the \$147m and \$135m option. Architects will look at both since so close.
3. Endorsement of potential ballot language/school finance campaign by DAAC – There was discussion on whether DAAC should endorse the proposed plan in Sept. There is concern about the lack of input from DAAC, since one of its responsibilities is the accountability on how funds are spent, during the Capital Planning Committee process. Mr. Hilts feels the BOE will want to know what the schools want. Does DAAC want to take a position prior or after the board votes? Any SAC can pass a resolution. The SACs have been visited and Peter has brought their concerns and recommendations to the Capital Planning Committee. Action on a position might wait until the SACs are asked about their position. There is concern that there is not a May meeting and a new DAAC will be seated in Sept. There was a comment that DAAC should advise the board on language and that it would be best at a work session. David Moore supports DAAC being used as an advisory committee. There is a perception that DAAC is not being given the opportunity to present recommendations or give input to the CPC. Tina Ciccariello asked how the DAAC members go back to parents in their schools to address their concerns and how do we keep up with new information. Any chief officer or the chair of the planning committee can provide updates. Peter indicated the specifics will be publicized to the community when board decides. Brett Ridgway indicated the precise information will be given to the board at the

June regular meeting. The board will have the final vote. A rendering of Horizon M.S. will be put on the Wiki. Karen Hobson moves that the DAAC requests to be on the BOE work session agenda on July 23. **Motion carries.**

4. July meeting date – BOE work session – can't discuss business so do we want a June meeting. The DAAC could review where plan is at the time. Karen Hobson moves to have a June meeting, date TBD. **Motion carries.** Some items to consider are what qualifies as an endorsement. Unanimous agreement? Majority? DAAC members were asked to send their June availability dates to Dana Palmer.
5. Big Rocks report – The community survey results will be posted on the Wiki, so DAAC members can dig into the document and graphs. Peter shared that the closer one is to the district, the better one feels about the district. There were 1600 respondents, which is still about C+/B-.
6. District leadership discussion and survey – There was discussion on whether to create a survey to determine whether district leadership is advancing or impeding the education process. The survey would list major improvement strategies and root causes. David Moore asked what the ultimate goal of the survey is. Dana would discuss the survey as a committee to take results to board. Kris Levi would like to have input in any survey. There could be open discussion or the option to do a survey. Amber Whetstine will come to a DAAC meeting to update on the UIP. It was suggested the survey could be taken quarterly to track progress. Peter cautioned about the risk of creating anxiety.

The next meeting TBD at the Education Service Center in the board room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Karen Hobson
DAAC Secretary