

## DAC Meeting Minutes

PSD Boardroom

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

### **Present**

Clare Barquero	Tena Green	Marcy Lewis	Angela Lindquist
Kathy Mackay	Luis Montalvo	Ian Rutherford	Susan Sasson
Scott Schoenbauer	Michael Werner	Becky Woodcox	Jessica Zamora

### **Minutes**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dwayne welcomed everyone.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The September 20, 2023, minutes were approved and seconded as amended.

#### **Preview the Meeting Design – Dwayne Schmitz**

- Dwayne went over the Meeting Design and proposed a change to the agenda.
  - New to the agenda: Potential renaming of the Futures Lab.

#### **Review School Budget Survey Results – Dwayne Schmitz**

- This topic will be discussed at the November DAC meeting.
- Dwayne will email the DAC information on this topic to look over before our next meeting.

#### **Futures Lab Name Feedback**

Last year, PSD hired an external marketing firm to support awareness of mental health resources and provide strategies to boost enrollment in PSD. The marketing firm reviewed the district marketing materials related to graduating with options, including CTE programs. In regard to Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Concurrent Enrollment program offerings the marketing firm shared the following recommendations:

- Utilizing Career and Technical Education in some form (CTE, Career Tech Ed, Career Tech, etc.) for a campus name is best because it is a term more understood by the general public.
- CTE is also the hottest niche in education right now and is getting an enormous amount of press – not only from the federal government focus but from unions, associations, and even politicians who are talking about the massive talent shortage in high-paying careers that don't necessarily require a college degree.
- It's also synonymous with educator PD associations in the field (i.e., ACTE, CACTE, etc.).
- "Lab" does not clearly signal a public school district or a school offering fields that aren't STEM; although we are seeing it pop up in higher ed to represent "think-tank" on campus.

In response to this feedback, PSD is interested in renaming the Futures Lab program to better align with the mission of a District Career Tech School (DCTS) and to more effectively communicate the programs offered to students within this program.

Dwayne and Kathy Mackay gave some background information on the Futures Lab and asked for feedback from the DAC on the renaming process.

- The Futures Lab is considered a District Career Technical School (DCTS). The mission of a DCTS is to have intense specific CTE instruction that must have at least five unique CTE program approvals. Part of the approval process means that the program must have CTE-endorsed teachers and with program approvals comes reimbursement of funds to the school.
- This will be the fifth year of the Futures Lab, which is now housed at Poudre High School. The Futures Lab serves all students from all the PSD high schools.
- Anything that is spent on programming for a designated Career Tech School typically receives about 35 to 40 percent reimbursement back from the State from CTA Funds (Career Technical Act).
- Currently, Poudre High School receives 25% in reimbursements from CTA funds for all money spent on programming and would like to get to the 35/40% mark.
  - PSD is working on a new marketing campaign to raise awareness of what programs the Futures Lab offers.
  - Also working on getting additional staff CTE endorsed.
- The purpose of renaming the Futures Lab is to align it with more of a DCTS type of campus. Adding the words Career and Tech to the name would help the general public know what type of school it is and removing the word “Lab” would reduce confusion. The goal is that the name is aligned with the mission of a DCTS and the name communicates what types of programs might be offered at the school.

Dwayne passed out a survey with examples of new name options and a space for suggestions of other name options. Input will be gathered from multiple stakeholder groups.

#### Committee Discussion:

- It will not cost a lot of money to change the name.
- The Futures Lab moved to PHS because it had the space, the infrastructure was already there, it already holds multiple district programs, and maximizes transportation opportunities. Previously, PHS was considering being named a DCTS school because of its unique programming so this also prompted moving forward with moving the Futures Lab to the PHS location.
- Criteria for considering which pathways to build out include high industry demand, high livable wages, and a certification upon completion of the program.

## **Improvement Plan Partnership – Susan Thomas & James Garcia**

Susan Thomas, Assessment & School Support Coordinator, and James Garcia, Laurel Elementary School Principal presented on the School Unified Improvement Plan (SUIP) process (see image below).

Susan offers support sessions to help schools write their SUIPs. She shared the process that Poudre Community Academy (PCA) used to come up with their plan. James shared Laurel Elementary School's SUIP with the group. James and Susan collaborated on Laurel's plan together.



Key points regarding Laurel Elementary School's plan

- This is James' first year as principal at Laurel and any school with a new principal must submit a UIP.
- Laurel's three priorities are Literacy, Mental Health and Belonging, and Math
  - If literacy improves, math will improve.
  - Empowering bilingual students, knowing a second language is an asset.
  - Provide an environment where all students feel equal.
- The committee liked Laurel's SUIP and thought it was very clear and easy to read.

## **Facilities and Boundaries Feedback – Dwayne Schmitz**

PSD is facing declining enrollment and funding challenges. Dwayne asked the DAC where they see themselves in the upcoming facilities and school boundary process and how they want to engage in this process.

Committee discussion included:

- We are a committee that should be well-informed and should be able to share what is going on in the district honestly, openly, and carefully, with transparency. We should not be blindsided.
- It is important for the district to get the perspective of community members, parents, staff, and students - they all need time to adapt to this change.
- The initial process was not handled well.
- Many committee members appreciated how the board meeting was handled.

- It would be helpful if the district would equip committee members with proper verbiage so they can address questions when they come up and have in-depth conversations with the community.
- The community was incredible for standing up for what they believed in.
- This was a logistical problem one month before the election – the timing was awful.
- We need to realize that this is not a new problem and each of us must take ownership. We need to work together to come up with solutions.
- The boundary issue needs to be a long-term discussion as some of the district's boundaries are unsustainable for families. We need to focus on what is sustainable and accessible for all students.

### **Closing**

- The next DAC meeting will be on November 15, 2023, JSSC Boardroom, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Adjourned**

### **2023-24 Meeting Dates**

- August 16, 2023
- September 20, 2023
- October 18, 2023
- November 15, 2023
- January 17, 2024
- February 21, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- May 15, 2024

### **Parking Lot Items:**