

## DAC Meeting Minutes

PSD Boardroom

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### **Present**

Meghan Archuleta	Ashley Barrett	Stephanie Cotton-Maceta	Jess Ellis Hagman
Marcy Lewis	Jodi Quass	Marybeth Rigali-Oiler	Susan Sasson
Scott Schoenbauer	Mark Strasberg	Michael Werner	Becky Woodcox
Joe Zappa			

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dwayne welcomed the committee members.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The committee approved the August 21, 2024, minutes and seconded them as amended.

### **Preview the Meeting Design – Ashley Barrett**

Ashley previewed the meeting design.

### **November 5 Mill Levy Question Update – Brian Kingsley and Dave Montoya**

Brian Kingsley and Dave Montoya provided the DAC with an overview of the Debt-Free Mill Levy, which will appear on the November 5 ballot, along with some positive outcomes from the 2023-24 school year. Dave explained in detail how state and federal sources fund the school district. Brian and Dave will be hosting several community events that will be purely educational and fact-based, without any intent to influence the upcoming ballot or violate fair campaign practices. They will be providing information about the school board's actions and implications for the November ballot and are seeking feedback. They acknowledge the hard work staff has put in and the positive impact of the new curriculum and professional development on student outcomes, such as improved academic growth, reduced reports of persistent sadness or hopelessness, and increased graduation rates. Despite financial challenges, they are focused on supporting student success and engaging the community in understanding the complexities of school district funding and decision-making. Information on the mill levy and community session dates can be found on the PSD website.

Last year, the district hired an external firm to assess its future needs and maintenance requirements. The firm estimated that it would take \$1 billion to maintain buildings and infrastructure. Of that amount, \$650 to \$750 million was solely allocated for building maintenance, while PSD's current budget allocates \$800,000 annually to this purpose.

Dave provided an overview to clarify common misunderstandings about the school district's revenue sources. He explained that funding comes from local revenue, primarily property taxes, specific ownership taxes, and state funding based on the school finance formula. This formula includes factors like district size and cost of living adjustments, from which PSD doesn't benefit, making it a "floor-funded" district. PSD's state funding amount decreases as property taxes rise, necessitating voter-approved mill levies for additional revenue.

He also addressed the Debt-Free Schools Mill Levy, which, if approved, will generate \$49 million annually, adjusted for inflation. Indexed to inflation, this levy will continue indefinitely. The funds will be used to attract and retain quality staff, maintain and enhance school facilities, and provide resources for a comprehensive education. Unlike traditional bonds that accrue debt and interest, this method offers a more fiscally responsible approach to managing ongoing expenses. An oversight committee will ensure transparency and proper management of the funds over the coming years.

How will the money be spent?

- \$21.5 million in qualifying expenses for building maintenance
- \$22.9 million will be dedicated to building maintenance, repairs, and replacement cycles
- \$4.6 million is the state-required pro-rata share for PSD-authorized charter schools

Committee discussion:

- PSD is now participating in a Medicaid program that has helped with funding.
- Concerns were raised about PTO purchases creating equity issues.
- The district aims to allocate \$4 million to support small schools, stabilizing them and ensuring equitable resources, though it's not a guarantee that all schools will stay open without reducing programming.
- Enrollment remains a challenge in earlier grades and there was higher than expected growth in high school enrollment.
- The process for allocating funds will be developed thoughtfully, not rushed. Clarity is needed on what can be communicated about the mill levy campaign, focusing on facts and avoiding advocacy. The mill levy seeks a sustainable revenue source, not a bond, to fund ongoing needs. If it fails, there will be insufficient funds for maintenance, and taxes collected on behalf of PSD will decrease due to a current mill override expiring.
- Concerns were raised about representing all schools fairly and addressing perceptions of fiscal responsibility. The community and staff need clear, transparent communication to understand the implications and rally support. It's essential to inform the community, including parents and SACs, about the facts. More information can be found on the PSD website and [investinpsd.com](https://investinpsd.com).

### **State Assessment and Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) Updates – Dwayne Schmitz**

This topic will be discussed at a future DAC meeting.

### **Vote in New Member Recommendations – Dwayne Schmitz**

The committee voted on candidates for the two remaining open seats on the DAC.

- Parent of an English Language Learner
- Parent of a middle school student

### **DAC Prioritize Topics for 2024/25 – Dwayne Schmitz**

This topic will be discussed at the October 16, 2024, DAC meeting.

**Closing**

The next DAC meeting will be October 16, 2024, JSSC Boardroom, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Adjourned****2024-25 Meeting Dates**

- August 21, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- October 16, 2024
- November 20, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- February 19, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- May 14, 2025

**Parking Lot Items:**