

PSD District Advisory Board

October 7, 2024
7:00-9:00pm
Boardroom

Meeting Agenda:

Time (Approximate)	Topic	Presenter
7:00 - 7:05	Welcome	DAB Chair - Taylor CSU Moderator - Martin Carcasson
7:05 - 7:10	Approval of September Minutes	All
7:10 - 7:20	Committee Updates	Membership Chair - Sara Merrill Legislative Committee - Sarabeth Lundquist District Accountability Committee - Ashley Barrett Academic Committee - Jami Montoya
7:20 - 7:30	BoE Updates	BoE, DAB Liaison - Jim Brokish
7:30 - 7:35	Poll Results and School (SAC) Budget Priorities	DAB Chair - Taylor CSU Moderator - Martin Carcasson
7:35 - 8:30	Community Oversight Committee for Debt-free Mill Draft and Discussion	PSD - Dave Montoya and Lauren Hooten , Community Member - Yvonne Myers
8:30 - 8:55	Exec Group Format Feedback and Discussion	DAB Chair - Taylor
9:00	Closing	DAB Chair - Taylor

DAB Attendance- October 7th, 2024

Taylor Unwin (Bamford); Sara Bryan (Bauder); Tory Pappas (Beattie); Latoya Noel (Beattie); Mike Thomas (Bennett); Faith Fritsch (Blevins); Carrie DeJulio (CLP E); Beth Reynolds (CLP MS); Jodi Quass (Compass); Laura Martin (Fossil); Karrie Grama-Hatfield (Kruse); Marybeth Rigali-Oiler (Kruse); MaryBeth Cheversia (Lesher); Angie Dixon (Lesher); Michelle Duncan (Liberty); Jenny Miller (Lincoln); Jon Danielson (Linton); Katrina Toth-Green (Linton); Dave Garner (Lopez); Jaime Donnelly (Olander); Sarabeth Lundquist (Polaris); Dave Godlove (Polaris); Rebecca Everette (Putnam); Anne Nelson (Putnum); Gaylene Moldt (Rice); Michelle Finchum (RMHS); Christy Haldeman (Timnath MHS); Sara Merrill (Traut/Kinard); Taylor Ritchie (Webber); Lee Romsa (Wellington); Stacy Armstrong (PSD Global); Jim Brokish (BOE); Ashley Barrett (DAC)

DAB Meeting 10-7-24

Meeting began at 7:02

Taylor: reminder to mark name and email address on sign-in sheet on table

Approval of September minutes: Ashley approved. Mike seconded.

Minutes approved.

Committee Updates:

Membership (Sara Merrill):

The following schools do not currently have DAB representation: Bacon, Eyestone, Mountain Schools, Werner, Zach, Centennial, Early Childhood, Fort Collins Montessori, Mountain Sage Community School.

Do we want to offer a remote/hybrid option for meetings?

Point of clarification: do bylaws need to be re-examined re remote membership?

Taylor will start looking into options.

Legislative Committee (Sarabeth Lundquist):

Has signs if anyone wants a sign to place in front of their residence re Mill Levy support. Amendment 80: Constitutional Right to School Choice. Sarabeth has the verbiage available if anyone wants to access it. Proposes amending CO constitution to create school choice K-12 and protect rights of parents to home school children.

Yes = constitutionally protected right to school choice for K-12, including public, private, home school and any future innovations.

No = maintains the current system of school choice in state law.

Comment: I think there is a lot of confusion amongst parents. School choice is already a law in CO. This just dictates that the money would go to the school of choice that you choose. Does not affect the right TO school choice.

Comment: I thought the money already followed the kid.

Response: it follows student if they are choosing public or charter, but not home school or private school.

Comment: So, it's like school vouchers?

Answer: Essentially. Mike Thomas clarified it does not create vouchers, but this may be a step in the direction of vouchers.

Taylor offered to send out the language of the Amendment.

Question: Currently if a child goes to a private school, does the money go to the private school?

Answer: No.

Question: might funding then be thinner to public schools?

Answer: Dave Montoya clarified 'possibly'.

DAC updates (Ashley):

DAC had the same presentation from Bryan and Dave that we at DAB received at the last meeting. It's really the parents who have the power to push information out about the Mill Levy. We are the people who can really push this information out to

other parents because PSD employees are not able to. Parents are not going to see their principal come out and support it – they cannot, due to campaign laws.

Question: (by Rebecca Everette) Is any of the info about the Mill Levy translated into Spanish and Arabic and other languages?

Answer: It can be translated off of the website.

Sarabeth looked on site and it does not appear to be translatable as it is on the site.

Ashley: We can touch base with PSD to see where we stand with that.

Academic Committee Update:

Jami Montoya not able to make it tonight. We will look forward to an update next time.

Board of Education Updates (Jim Brokish, Liaison):

Sorry for missing last meeting, had surgery. When the admin talks about Mill Levy, they must be very careful to remain fact-based and not push one way or another. Jim provides his view tonight as a citizen: from his point of view, we've got to get this passed. It's very important. CO Sec of State tracks it. Jim donated to help get this done. Dropped of flyers, knocked on doors. If you believe in this please engage, call 7 friends talk to them. This Saturday at 10am Jim is hosting with Kristin Draper at Dunn Elem more distribution of flyers and info. Visit InvestInPSD.com for more info. Click on Events tab for more info.

Mike Thomas: teacher union also has voted in support of the Mill Levy.

Taylor: Yvonne Myers, Dave Montoya, Lauren Hooten are providing more information tonight. Poll from last meeting: most of the poll results centered on accountability of Mill Levy funds. One other piece here is how to members advise? How do schools advocate for how money gets spent? Typically, DAC will send out survey. When you get this survey, go back to your school and work with your SAC/school team members on priorities for your school. That way your school has a voice.

Next month: equity in learning, 504s, Gifted/Talented discussion

Dave Montoya and Lauren Hooten: Community Oversight Committee for Debt-free Mill Draft and Discussion

Slideshow re Debt Free Mill Levy Oversight Committee. Proposing larger committee than we have previously had (will be 16 members).

See handouts for specific topics related to Duties and Responsibilities`

Note that principals will have a voice in this process, particularly regarding projects needed for their school.

PSD Now will put out a call for applications for members.

Might look at a way to stagger the 2-year terms so large cohorts do not depart committee at same time.

Community members who attend meetings cannot participate but can observe the meeting.

Question: Will the schedule for the projects for first 5 years be made public?

Lauren: Yes, already on web page.

Question: Would it show when projects are completed?

Lauren: Yes.

Question: Do you know historically how the associations have decided to have members on these committees?

Lauren: Historically not very involved. 2019 involved a bit re salaries. Asking to appoint someone to serve consistently?

Question: How would you tell me that the duties/responsibilities exert any power over oversight? Is there any power to this committee?

Dave: The power is you're providing insight and there would always be the opportunity to make that recommendation or report to the board.

Lauren: Yes, if we see something off, that's their obligation to report to the board.

Question: Is that once a year or so?

Lauren: At a minimum.

Jim Brokish: People have no problem reporting to the board.

Question: Any requirements? Have to be an accountant, etc.?

Lauren: Historically we have not specified any skill sets.

Dave: Really looking as a voter, we provide the information so you can see what is coming.

Question: Parents/guardians enrolled in public AND charter?

Lauren: Yes, both.

Question: What is the district doing to make sure application process is as equitable as possible?

Lauren: Sending email district wide in English, Spanish, Arabic, and ensuring partners and liaisons help get info out.

Question: Would there be any evaluation of the applicants? This is only representative of SOME of the district body.

Lauren: Tricky, really a lottery, what the voters supported, not always reflective of the entire group.

Question: With 2-year term will there be a new call for applicants?

Lauren: Yes, new call, depending on how we stagger. If someone dropped off midterm we'd go back to original group of applications.

Question: How would you control for not having just ALL charter representation, or ALL the same school?

Lauren: Having a lottery makes it hard to control in that space. If we ended up with lottery that looked like that, we could have a conversation with the district, but we need to be really careful. Something we can consider for sure.

Comment: This is not an audit committee, but it sounds a lot like an audit committee. Not a decision-making board.

Question: Any way to build in caveat that no one school will have more than one representative?

Lauren: We can look into that.

Comment: Three potential buckets of criteria, separate them out, pull from those buckets.

Comment: You're already doing that via the principals being at different levels (Elementary, Middle, High).

Lauren: We can talk about how to make sure there is an even distribution.

Yvonne Myers: I can add as someone who participated. We did not have name badges with name of school. You come in with list of things citizens have approved of you doing. Learned so much about every school's specific needs, I look at the district as the whole of it. They tell you what is happening, you get to ask a lot of questions, bring data back to you, have further discussion, really are overseeing to be sure Mill Levy is spent the way it should be. Community members ask you questions, and you see them and you get to be helpful. Found it super interesting, learned a lot.

Comment: You hit a word with me with TRUST. I don't have a lot of trust. Thinking of 4 charter schools being on the committee, I don't trust that. If that is the make-up, are you going to understand – need to think about equity, diversity of the committee BEFORE we get started.

Lauren: I definitely hear you and we will adjust.

Taylor: I see this committee as the conduit between district and community, building trust, so it's not all closed-door. Being able to feed back to everybody and the board, driving further discussion.

Comment: Talking about power: influence is power. Thinking about how are we creating diversity and a more equitable way.

Comment: Make it intentional. Middle, High, BIPOC, English as a second language, etc.

Lauren: Really hoping for more than 4 applications.

Comment: Part of building trust is having it go as slow as it needs to go, it has to start slow.

Question: what does happen if you spend this incorrectly?

Dave: Reality is someone will report that we are not agreeing with where things are going. We haven't run into that before.

Question: Will you give it back?

Dave: I think there is probably a legal way to go about it if it's egregious. I don't know the exact answer to that.

Yvonne: Ultimate goal is to pass the next one, so you want to do it the right way.

Question: Re projects – how are those priorities set?

Dave: Via McKinstry we now have a good data set of what needs to be done and when things will fail, its useful life, etc. It's up on the site, we can take a look at what are those projects we need to get done in next 5 years.

Lauren: One-pager on Mill Levy page lists all the projects that are prioritized.

Dave: (shares document and explains layout) Some projects may end up moving up out of necessity.

Question: Every school has check mark by AC – how do we prioritize?

Dave: Cannot do every school at once.

Lauren: Team would evaluate buildings, identify which ones need air conditioning first, how complex each project is.

Dave: Other districts are passing air conditioning laws; we can expect labor will be fairly stagnant for a bit.

Question: About operations: who in operations will be overseeing this?

Dave: It's me, and our construction project manager, district architect, other project managers, facilities teams.

Question: Timnath Elementary is not listed here. Not ADA compliant; what is happening there?

Dave: Timnath is real challenge. We did look into ADA, 5 floors in building, some are half floors, elevator probably isn't best solution. Best decision is probably a replacement for Timnath at some point.

Question: How much does operations team know about ADA?

Dave: It's a really good question.

Lauren: Our ADA coordinator will be involved, principals also.

Comment: I would ask that your ADA Coordinator be involved in that discussion.

Question: Any oversight given to historical spending – schools that have been more invested in in the past, will they get equal amount of money?

Lauren: Baseline is when is something going to break? From there, with whatever funding is available, we have more flexibility to consider other factors. Air conditioning is where we will most likely see that prioritization. We aren't likely going to invest in something built in the last decade when we have schools from the 60s that are a priority.

Dave: And what kind of preventative maintenance can be put into things to extend life. We've had bond programs with finite lists that don't change over 8 years; sometimes the project doesn't make sense anymore. It's not always equal and that is what we are trying to fix.

Question: Do you have data on historical spending equity? Could be helpful to committee.

Dave agrees it's a little political.

Question: Does district measure greenhouse gas emissions?

Dave: Energy emissions were part of McKinstry study. Looking at that info, including solar where it makes sense.

Question: Do you have a 'Thrifty' coordinator to work with the committee on how to re-use different parts and pieces of materials?

Dave: I expect we will be thinking outside the box and creatively.

Question: Wondering about geothermal to replace old ACs. Lots of perks, grants.

Dave: Lots of opportunities out there, going to try to get to as much of it as we can.

Question: If we are putting solar in, wouldn't that be beneficial to do in first couple years?

Dave: One thing we need to do is look at McKinstry study and determine feasible order of projects across entire project scheme that makes sense.

Question: Yvonne, how much of a time commitment was it to serve on committee?

Yvonne: I think one whole day, and then 2-3 hours per quarter possibly.

Lauren: Started quarterly, then twice a year, now ad hoc as needed.

Question: Have you developed a ranking system that aligns priorities here with Strategic Plan?

Dave: Aligned with McKinstry data and trying to align it with plan.

Question: Would be helpful to align with strategic plan.

Dave: I think there is data on that via McKinstry plan, looking at instructional impact.

Question: How old is the McKinstry data?

Dave: October/November of last year.

Question: Timing of meetings – is there way to set that schedule so meetings and updates can more directly feed into annual budget process?

Lauren: Yes.

Question: How different is this committee going to be after all the attention – what is the difference?

Lauren: More structured and probably much larger.

Yvonne: On other committees in Timnath and Wellington there was a lot of interest.

Comment: It might not be realistic that people will be willing to wait to build that trust.

Lauren: If committee wants to meet more frequently, we will facilitate that.

Dave: We've got a pretty good plan with what to get done first 5 years, no harm in doing that, we've already got the data.

Moving on to committees, getting feedback on how committees work.

Membership Committee:

Question: Can you walk through how you reach out to principals?

Sara M: We reach out to principals and confirm reps for next year. If principal does not respond we keep person on committee. If someone says they cannot rep, we do not keep them on. If principal says they do not want that individual, they will be removed (has occurred before).

Comment: During COVID some community members attended DAB meetings and tried to represent their schools.

Taylor: All of our meetings are open to public, but community members cannot just vote.

Comment: Bylaws once said every member could have 7 guests.

Comment: Half the work is showing up here, half of it is showing up at your school. Need to ensure you are talking with your principal.

Sara M: I do let principals know if they don't have a rep.

Comment: We have been talking about video conferencing with the Mountain Schools for ten years.

Various verbal support for hybrid meetings. Might be tech hurdles. It's not easy but can be figured out.

Taylor will look into this more. Will investigate bylaws as well. Looking into refreshing bylaws anyway this year.

Question: Historically do we also have reps from Early Childhood or Transitions program?

Sara M: Yes, they are allowed (though no reps currently).

Question: Would principals of schools be the ones to contact re Early Childhood?

Answer: May need to talk with head of Early Childhood.

Legislative Committee:

Comment: Getting bill numbers and tracking info during legislative session.

Sarabeth: Can email them out.

Comment: Do people know who their representatives are? Contact info?

Sarabeth: Would people be interested in knowing what PSD is lobbying for?

People: YES (by many)

Sarabeth: Are people also interested in negotiations?

People: YES (by many)

Karrie: Add a Google document for updates – can include in the notes?

District Accountability Committee:

Ashley: She's the DAB rep on DAC. DAC is mandated by state. Smaller group, more PSD employees, reps from different departments, diverse representation across community.

Question: Are Charters part of the DAC?

Ashley: We have Charter reps.

Question: Do Charters have to go through the DAC for approval?

Ashley: Not sure but can look into that.

Ashley: DAC meets on third Wednesdays of the month.

Comment: Recommendation: when looking at bylaws can we look at when we hold our DAB meeting?

Taylor: I don't think there is anything in our bylaws that dictates when we meet.

Comment: Our meeting dates are advantageous to some, not to others.

Comment: I created a Facebook page for all of my parents to receive updates.

Academic Committee:

Comment: Connect Jami to Amanda – new head of curriculum development

Question: How do the pieces of connecting students to various options, Futures Lab etc. fit into Academic Committee?

Question: Look at having a member here at DAB who is part of that?

Comment: Would be nice to have Student Accountability Committee member come in and attend sometimes to make sure we are doing right by the students.

Comment: A presentation would be a good place to start re academic committee.

Question: Do bylaws dictate committees we have?

Taylor: No.

Question: Can we start Special Education committee within DAB?

Comments: (multiple people agree)

Taylor: Will look into it more, we would need a motion.

Question: What is SEAC?

Answer: Special Education Advisory Committee

Comment: Academic Committee Chair is in bylaws. Committees in general are in bylaws.

Comment: Agendas are not online on DAB page of the PSD website.

Taylor: Contacted district person in charge of putting agendas and approved meetings on site.

Comment: Last year we made a motion that anyone who showed up to present to the group would pre-populate agenda with why they are here and what the group's takeaways would be. For your information, looking for feedback, etc. Would like to see us uphold that.

Taylor: One struggle we had last year was feeding that to them and then having them be ready for that meeting.

Comment: PSD employees who are asked to present, please remind the presenters so we can support that. We try hard not to mandate actions of this committee.

Comment: It goes back to the question of why are we here? To advise, to learn so we can later advise, etc.

Taylor: It didn't get added to bylaws, but we did make a motion last year to try to include it when possible.

Comment: Appreciate level of detail in meeting notes.

Comment: Appreciated receiving meeting notes ahead of time.

Comment: Podcast called 'Have You Heard?' DAB members were featured on it. Podcast on public education.

Meeting closed.

--Karrie Grama-Hatfield, DAB Secretary