

PSD District Advisory Board

December 2, 2024
7:00-9:00pm
Boardroom

Meeting Agenda:

Time (Approximate)	Topic	Presenter
7:00 - 7:05	Welcome	DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie CSU Moderator - Martin Carcasson
7:05 - 7:10	Approval of November 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 - 7:45	Governor's Proposed Budget Discussion	BoE - Jim Brokish , DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie
7:45 - 8:00	PSD Calendar Update	PSD - Traci Gile
8:00 - 8:55	Comprehensive Planning Committee	PSD - Lauren Hooten
9:00	Closing	DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie

DAB Attendance- December 2nd, 2024

Sara Bryan (Bauder); Tory Pappas (Beattie); Latoya Noel (Beattie); Brett Hansen (Bethke); Faith Fritsch (Blevins); Beth Reynolds (CLP MS); Jodi Quass (Compass); Laura Martin (Fossil); Karrie Grama-Hatfield (Kruse); Marybeth Rigali-Oiler (Kruse); MaryBeth Cheversia (Leshner); Jenny Miller (Lincoln); Katrina Toth-Green (Linton); Stephanie Matthews (Linton); Jon Danielson (Linton); David Godlove (Lopez); Queen (PCA); Demetreece Langston (PCA); Dave Garner (Polaris); Jenna Goupil (PHS); Rebecca Everette (Putnam); Michelle Finchum (RMHS); Christy Haldeman (Timnath); Sara Merrill (Traut/Kinard); Taylor Ritchie (Webber); Lee Romsa (Wellington); Stacy Armstrong (PSD Global); Jim Brokish (BOE); Jamal Skinner (Community-RMHS); Nikki Sartin (Community-Johnson) Kevin Dorn (Community-Olander)

DAB Meeting 12-2-24

Meeting began at 7:04pm

Taylor welcomed everyone and reviewed agenda.

November minutes clarification – question about interpreter. November minutes approved.

Committee Updates:

Membership Updates (Sara Merrill):

Sara shared schools that are not currently represented at DAB meetings, including Eystone, Mountain Schools, Warner, Zach, Centennial, Early Childhood, Fort Collins Montessori, Mountain Sage. Tory mentioned speaking to some friends at Bacon who might be interested.

Legislative Committee Updates (Sarabeth Lundquist):

Sarahbeth not present tonight, but Taylor provided brief update. 3 board elections up in 2025: Jim Brokish, Carolyn Reed, Kristen Draper. Information re students with dyslexia – CO does not mandate screening for dyslexia. Next meeting 12/11 8:30am. Link provided by Sarabeth to watch upcoming meeting. Feel free to reach out to Angelika Schroeder for more info. Conor Duffy – starting in February there will be weekly legislative calls. Board members speaking with reps about bills they plan on introducing. Candice Mozer taking over role of President.

DAC Updates (Ashley Barrett):

DAC does not meet in December. Met in November. Lauren came to speak; also, Joe Zappa re how schools develop UIP (Unified Improvement Plan). Team almost finalized budget report; plans to send to committee soon. The report consists of recommendations, not a final say, what they have learned from principals and SAC and how those needs might be reflected in next year's budget.

Question: Is it possible to get a copy of the survey?

Ashley: Let me confirm and then I'll filter out the sheet and send it out to you.

Comment: Some interesting things that happened, architect surveyed ceiling for HVAC and said it's going in 2025.

Ashley: Would not have been in response to that – but maybe there are other things going on.

Comment: And then PSD video circulated re Beattie is getting a new playground.

Ashley: Not related to survey as far as I know, maybe Lauren knows more.

Dr. Gile: We had a study by McKinstry that identified projects – have been identified for a while now. I think those things have been in the queue for a while, and now that they have a funding source they are being addressed. Website breaks down which school is getting what.

Comment: Beattie hasn't identified that a playground is a priority, so it was shocking that we were getting one.

Ashley: We don't have that kind of power on DAC (laughs).

Dr. Gile: Could be defined due to age standards.

Question: So how does this all work together then? What gets prioritized?

Dr. Gile: So that DAC survey covers a wide range of things – professional development, staffing, facilities, etc. All gets evaluated. A school might say it would be nice to have new playground equip, but industry standard says not yet, we need to look at health and safety things, life cycle, etc. Both things get looked at and then prioritizations are determined.

Question: How is that communicated to the schools?

Dr. Gile: DAC recommendation made, survey part of our ecosystem

Question: How does the principal and those folks get to know?

Comment: Yeah, it felt strange getting this news from the media. Now I have a lot of questions. I also know we have 3 active leaks in the roof. I don't want to take any more time, this was very informative.

Dr. Gile: The survey we are doing right now will inform the future, Projects happening now were in the queue for a while.

Comment: The transparency about communication does not always feel clear. That's the main thing I have taken away from this conversation.

Dr. Gile: I don't know if I can provide the details tonight. It sounds like you're asking what is going to happen this summer?

Comment: I think Latoya nailed it, it's the communication. I felt funny finding out while the AC was being put in.

Question: Shouldn't the principal be the one sharing the info?

Dr. Gile: That's really good feedback. I appreciate the questions and feedback.

Question: Is that common that the principal doesn't know what is happening?

Dr. Gile: Contractor might show up to evaluate whether something is possible, potentially an 'oops' that happens. We strive for the principal to hear about it first.

Lauren: Also, re AC at Beattie, part of that is re procurement – if we can't procure that before this summer, it won't happen until the following summer.

Academic Committee Update (Jami Montoya):

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

Board of Education Updates (Jim Brokish, Liaison):

Jim: So many updates tonight! Going to get to some of it during Governor's Budget discussion. SEAC committee – one of my Action Items was to see if anyone was willing to join us here from that group. One member is willing (Aaron). He will try to make it next time. SEAC covered bylaws and got feedback on that at last meeting.

Question: Isn't there a bylaw indicating if someone is not a voting member, they need to be voted in by this committee?

Taylor: Only voting members – these meetings are open to the public.

Governor's Proposed Budget Discussion

Jim shared 4 slides.

Slide 2: caseloads referring to Medicare/Medicaid factors

Slide 3: state defines a level of how much money should be provided by the state. For PSD about \$11K per student. We are the lowest level of all the districts in CO. We are a "floor funded" district. What would bring it up? More at-risk kids, higher cost of living. Where does money come from? Local funding from property taxes and specific use taxes (car registration, etc.) State then comes in and fills in the rest to reach the \$11K per pupil.

Total Program is about 75% of state budget. If enrollment is higher, we get more money, lower we get less money. If our local taxes go up, state funding goes down. If enrollment drops, state funding goes down. Jim checked in with budget director today and asked how big a deal it is for PSD if our enrollment drops. We need to get the final October count numbers to see where we are at. Currently about \$750,000 – expecting it to be less after October count, may not be as big a deal for us this year, need to see as we get these numbers together. Education is a huge priority for the legislators – not just lip service. Jim read through what Andrew B stated: see YouTube link at 2:11:40. Legislators are making tough critical choices. There's a limited pot of money and we have to balance the budget; they are stuck. When you dedicate money to a certain area, that money cannot be designated to other areas. It's a zero-sum game; something always needs to be cut to make room for it.

Question: The constraint would be the citizen initiatives coming in? from people gathering signatures, petitions, etc. right?

Jim: Yes, that's right.

Comment/Question: Every time I try discussing this with people I get really confused because I feel like the state of CO cares about so many different things, but I just wonder why are we at that bottom of the barrel? Other states – what AREN'T they spending money on that we are? What are they doing? Why is CO okay being at number 45 or whatever regarding education?

Comment: School and property tax. If you go to certain places in the northeast, what people are willing to pay might be more than what we pay here in Colorado.

Question: They care about education more than we do here?

Comment: It's a true investment in the youth – not saying Yale or Harvard is better than CSU.

Question: Is it also TABOR?

Jim: Yes, TABOR is a big issue. Pretty soon legislators feel their hands are tied. PSD just approved a huge Mill Levy and that's awesome. Some of the rest of it comes from federal funding re Special Education needs.

Comment: It just feels like are relying on that when CO funding is so low. I don't see people getting pissed off enough about that. I don't like us being bottom of the barrel. It just doesn't fit. I didn't know if that was brought up at all.

Jim: TABOR was brought up many times in the meeting.

Question: So at the beginning of talk you talked about when local taxes go up, funding goes down. Why is that not the case with the Mill Levy that passed?

Jim: It's not part of that – it's on top of that.

Comment: We can't just as a community raise our property taxes – that is what the Mill Levy does.

Comment: So I guess the Mill Levy is earmarking these finds specifically for this purpose.

Comment: Right. It's outside of any state mechanism. Think of it like a local mechanism.

Question: I'm trying to know if anyone knows if it's Jefferson County or Douglas County that has made the move to increase their taxes to alleviate some of the budget issues – maybe that might be a place to look to?

Taylor closed discussion, commenting that he wanted to make sure everyone was up to speed regarding all the funding issues.

Question: Why is this being announced now right after we just voted for our Mill Levy?

Dr. Gile: It's just the timing of the Governor's budget.

Question: How can we as a community adjust? People put in so much effort toward this Mill Levy, and now it feels like it's kind of a wash. What can we do?

Dr. Gile: Felt timely to give this update in case people want to get in touch with their legislators – now is the time to get input in before spring, before 25-26 school year budget is approved. Right now everything we are doing re budget planning is based on hints about what they are thinking about. What we see in front of us right now means a reduction in student funding.

Comment: I think it's important to remember Cathy Kipp's history as well. She used to sit at these tables representing her school. I have a lot of confidence in her. We need to continue that pipeline, everyone in this room. We need another Cathy Kipp – we need more people to be advocating at that level. It's great to write your state legislator, it's better to take a more active role.

Question: Heading into spring – how can we protect what we have in CO, how can we protect our school district?

Jim: We did ask about that, it's just too early to know.

PSD Calendar Update: Lauren Hooten

Lauren: Calendar Committee has recommended next year's calendar. Looks similar to this year's calendar. Many people in this room wanted to look at a later start date; biggest barrier is so many high school students take concurrent enrollment. Committee might propose a differentiated calendar. High school might start/end different dates than other schools. Getting feedback.

Question: Have we talked with Front Range about them adjusting their calendar with us?

Lauren: Yes, part of the Front Range's challenge is all the community colleges have to be aligned. No will on part of Community College system to change that.

Question: That would be the year 26-27 for differentiated calendar?

Lauren: Yes.

Question: Can you repeat the changes being proposed?

Lauren: High school on same schedule with mid-August start. Elementary and Middle schools start toward end of August and end toward middle of June.

Taylor mentioned benefits re AC usage/budget, but acknowledged could cause challenges logistically for families.

Question: How does this affect AC put into schools?

Lauren: Does not affect it at this time. Mill Levy money will go toward AC. AC still 10 years out.

Question: Does everyone still like a week off at Thanksgiving?

Lauren: Mixed feelings on it.

Comment: For those of us who have families far away it was nice to visit family at Thanksgiving.

Comment: But it made childcare really hard for other families.

Lauren: Calendar team will take closer look at Thanksgiving.

Question: If we are staggering schedules won't it impact staffing? Like with bus drivers?

Lauren: Yes

Question: Re priorities, people last year wanted a week off at Thanksgiving but ALSO wanted earlier dismissal at end of the year. Do people understand it's a tradeoff?

Lauren: Yes

Question: Staggering dates won't impact plans for AC?

Lauren: Not impacting AC at this time.

Question: Will middle schools still be starting at 7:30 next year?

Lauren: We will be talking more in a different discussion about bell schedules. That is separate from Calendars.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Charter (Lauren still presenting).

Packet distributed.

Application info will be available via PSD Now newsletter.

Question: Has PSD been able to staff up in data analysis internally?

Lauren: We do have some staff but will have to engage third parties because we are limited.

Comment: Transportation was one thing left off – I don't see that on this list.

Lauren: Could be covered by Facilities. If we do discuss boundary changes, subject matter expert would participate to discuss what that would do.

Question: Clear that a lot of work and thought has gone into this – curious about longevity with this committee. What ensures that this is a committee that has influence through their recommendations? Do you have thoughts based on how other committees have worked in the past?

Lauren: Historically a lot of our long-range planning committees have been very task-oriented. There has been an intentional shift here. Idea being this group is meeting regularly and making recommendations regularly.

Jim: Feel the need to apologize again for the Spring. We gave that committee an incredibly large task with an incredibly short time period. This committee will not be that.

Taylor oriented people to the QR code – questions will then get filtered to Lauren.

Comment/Question: I like the direction you are going in – what about a time-based system of reporting? Instead of just an annual report?

Lauren: We have the one annual report now; my read on the board is they will want to hear from the committee more often.

Question: As a standing committee does that mean after two years there will be another call for participants?

Lauren: Yes

Questions: Will recommendations be made public before decisions are finalized?

Lauren: Yes, that is my understanding.

Taylor directed tables to have some discussion about this. Queen brought some treats and drinks.

Beth Reynolds from Cache La Poudre Middle School – they had a significant drop in 6th grade enrollment this year. In the true-up count it is going to hit them significantly. If you belong to another small school that experienced a drop in enrollment, she

would love to talk and brainstorm re path forward and financial support for true-up schools. And if you are not a small school but would like to join in the small school fight, she'd love to talk more.

Comment: Thank you for getting the agendas and minutes onto the website.

Taylor thanked everyone.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm.

--Karrie Grama-Hatfield, DAB Secretary