

District Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for May 5, 2025

The [District Advisory Board](#) ("DAB") represents the interests of, and communicates with the Board of Education and Superintendent on behalf of, current District students and their parents/guardians in a cooperative effort to help improve and support Poudre School District programs and operations.

Meeting Time and Location
May 5, 2025 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM **Note the meeting location is in the main board room of the JSSC Johannsen Support Services Center 2407 Laporte Ave. Fort Collins CO

Time (Approximate)	Topic	Presenter
7:00 - 7:05	Welcome	DAB Chair - Taylor Ritchie
7:05 - 7:10	Approval of April 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 SEAC - Aaron Green
7:20 - 7:30	BoE Updates	BoE, DAB Liaison - Jim Brokish
7:30 - 7:40	Election Introductions	Exec Team Nominees
7:40 - 7:50	Vote for 2025-26 Exec Team	Conducted by Sara Merrill and Taylor Ritchie
7:50 - 8:50	Q & A with PSD Superintendent from Survey Questions	PSD Superintendent - Brian Kingsley
8:50 - 9:00	Closing & Announcement of 25-26 DAB Exec Team	DAB Chair - Taylor Ritchie

Homework: Share what you learned tonight with your principal, school community, PTO/A and SAC and bring feedback from your school to DAB. Enjoy your summer!

Next DAB Meeting: September 2025

Contact us: dabreps@gmail.com

Meeting started at 7:02pm

Welcome by Taylor

Review of agenda

April minutes approved

Membership Chair Update (Sara Merrill): if you are leaving DAB after this year, please try to get new reps in. You ARE allowed to represent two schools, but you only get one vote.

Legislative Chair Update: Sarabeth unable to join us this evening. A note – need to actually drop ballots off at Health District at this time.

District Accountability Committee Update (Ashley Barrett): Last meeting was in April and included the same GPA and cell phone presentations we had for DAB. Also included a Pathways presentation, which was very interesting. Guides – if you know what you want to pursue, they have a path laid out. You can filter by school or by pathway to get more info. Future Ready lab tries to fill in the gaps of the programs each school does not specifically offer. We cannot offer in-depth programs at all of the schools. Lots of different options. Incredible work being done. Also SAC and Principal surveys went out. Principals are supposed to discuss with SAC their budget priorities. School level input form SAC and school leadership – long term budget priorities – asked to respond to statements. SAC then goes through the survey answers to find the buckets – like items to build report to give to BOE. Report is public information. If your principal adds an item DAC tries to find the appropriate “bucket” to place that item in.

Recruiting for next year’s DAC. Three are staff positions. One parent position – Parent of a cultural or gender identity diverse student. There is an application process. Ideally, we will vote in our May meeting.

Q: Facilities aspect – how do you discuss facility needs?

A: Example: if there were a lot of answers re HVAC, we would discuss it.

Academic Committee Update (Jami Montoya): No updates today

SEAC Update: Aaron Green not present tonight; last meeting he had said it was likely his last.

BOE Update (Jim Brokish): Things are winding down for year, celebration for teachers/classified staff, chose top performers there to celebrate.

Q: With recent cuts to mental health in the schools federally, I saw cuts made were targeting social workers in the schools. Is that impacting things?

Brian K: Yes, we were awarded a 5-year grant, up to 45 social workers, we were informed late last week that grant will go away in late 2025. Will impact 30-25 staff members. Important to be transparent about it.

Ashley B. proposed group gathering for DAB members so we can all get to know each other better.

Vote for 2025-26 Executive Team:

Ashley read Sarabeth's write-up for Chair-elect.

Taylor R read Taylor U's write-up for Chair-elect.

Tory shared (Secretary)

Jenny shared (Membership Chair)

Ann shared (Academic Chair). Mike withdrew his name.

Voting occurred.

Q & A with Brian Kingsley:

Brief presentation

Preston Middle School presentation will be tomorrow evening

We are no longer the only organization in town dealing with barriers and contingency planning.

Groups coming together to tell a shared story – help people understand the interdependencies within our community

Slideshow began

PSD is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Literacy not just reading – financial, media literate, feeling seen and affirmed for who students are.

Honor and dignity going directly into workforce after graduation – this is why we are blurring the lines

Honor and dignity to go into a college program

Highest grad rate in our district's history

Talented teachers and loving caring families partnering with us every day leading to success

John Irwin award, Governor's distinguished improvement award, Putnam receiving special award for exceptional longitudinal growth where over 75% of students.

Connected community – need to ensure we are connecting with other entities in meaningful ways.

Expect 500 fewer students in PSD schools next year; we lost 500 children from LAST year as well (per demographers)

Comprehensive planning committee to look at additional decisions that need to be made. Mill Levy bought us 3-5 years.

Budget Stabilization factor lost us 300+million over a period of years.

School finance formula being developed over next 7 years.

PSD doesn't get funded for each and every student. Funding based on 5-year average. Shifting from 5-4. Then 4-3, etc. Phasing out.

Next year we will see an artificial bump in pupil count of about 590 students.

\$30 million Federal Funding bucket – on average about 6-8 million in each of the 4 buckets (Special Education, Head Start, Child Nutrition Services, Entitlement Grants). If Head Start goes away, in PSD alone that is 76 teachers and almost 400 children (some of our most marginalized children).

Next year money for free breakfast/lunch will run out.

Federal changes are not being made with any consideration for State planning.

Our employee groups are in agreement that we need to invest in our reserves right now to soften the impact of these changes.

These reserves are NOT a long-term solution. Continuing to tax local taxpayers will not impact our birth rate issues or housing costs.

Cuts PSD has already made have major impact on the local economy. Major impact on Specials classes – hearing that going to two schools means double the work for our specials teachers.

Q: When will child nutrition lose funding by?

A: I don't know about federal timing of all that. Cuts I shared with you, I don't know if that was part of what president's team brought to appropriations committee.

Q: So the 30 million in fed funding may go away. It's possible.

A: Yes. I think the one least likely to go away is Special Education funding.

Q: When State of CO decided to provide lunch across state, I am assuming they decided to provide the funding as well. If federal funding is cut, will CO step up and provide the funds?

A: I am not a good political forecaster, as I have engaged with people in the community I believe there may be another ballot measure to address that difference, to see if Coloradoans will vote to fully fund it.

Q: You mentioned something being reduced in October?

A: Fiscal year at federal level for title 1-4 programs and grants starts in October. Any potential changes we will start to feel as early as next October.

Q: Ok so that hasn't been decided.

A: Correct, president's committee does propose a reduction in Title 1 through 4.

Please don't take this information as 100% decided

Q: For percentage of students that don't graduate, are you able to find any trends that fall along socioeconomic lines or racial lines?

A: For sure. Our data looking at mental health, if you are not a member of a marginalized community you are more likely having success. Believe we are under-resourced with Special Education supports. We don't get much sympathy in Denver because we are one of the higher performing districts in the state.

Q: I'm curious what strategies have been discussed so we don't lose sight of that gap.

A: I don't think we will experience mission drift, but our resources could be impacted.

Q: The contingency plans you've been talking about - I am hoping the same core, fundamental, moral base of PSD is still going to be held.

A: Oh yes, very much so.

Q: Always been protect the kids, serve the kids, serve the teachers. It's an interesting atmosphere you're having here with us.

A: You deserve radical candor in my opinion. I'm not saying 30 mil is going away. But something is going away. I'm being honest about that. Learned a lot last year. I am still very optimistic with our community, our school district. In some places we are making progress; need to still pay attention to the local impact. I'm not intending to come across in a way that is fear mongering.

Q: What is happening in PSD that you are most proud of right now?

A: Our schools and our student performance. Just met with Student Advisory, great to have student voices. We've worked hard to diversify our workforce. Started our first ever cohort of Become a Teacher program. Our operation division has made progress – AC in schools. Will have grand opening of renovated career tech center at Poudre High School. Jim talked about our 3rd annual PSD Celebrates ceremony. State and National champions in just about everything we can do – alpine skiing, marching band, chorus. Kids are successful in high school because of the start they are getting in elementary school.

Q: What do you think is most pressing issue in PSD.

A: (Already covered)

Q: Kindergarten and Pre-K numbers?

A: Smallest in our district. Trying to come up with creative solutions. 1506 in kinder today. 1464 suggested by demographers for next year. We only lost 28 students to Charter Schools this school year. Liberty Common will open Middle School next year. We expect larger than usual Charter School enrollment due to this opening. It will be interesting to see what will happen in Supreme Court re possible funding of religious schools.

Q: Does PSD have plans to look at School boundaries?

A: Yes, intention is to look every year. Some challenges in my opinion won't be solved by changing boundaries.

Q: What is the process for onboarding new leaders at principal level? What supports smooth transitions?

A: I recalibrated our PSD exec cabinet to make sure number of principals they were supervising was fewer, so principals have more support. Reorganized asst superintendent role to address feeder patterns. New principals are also given a district mentor, usually another principal colleague who is not evaluating them but is mentoring them to help ensure for success. We also get together with mentor/mentee so we learn new principals' asks/concerns. Seeing a lot of collaboration amongst principals.

Q: Seems to be an increase in vaping in Middle Schools. Why is this happening and how can we stop it?

A: Yes, we believe root cause is access in community. Stores, etc. SROs get involved to help. Type of vigilance needed in our community right now requires us to think differently about how we show up and support our children. We need to create alliances with our families in this space. Teachers get active shooter training and fentanyl overdose training. How can we partner with families and schools to address this?

Q: Representative from Lauren Boebert's office was at one of your recent town halls. Can you elaborate?

A: LB was not there in person. I didn't know representative was there until after town meeting. Rep came up and offered business card. LB district does cut into PSD. My town halls are open to the public.

Q: How is PSD going to advance parental involvement re curriculum being taught to our kids? Can parents have a greater voice other than some activist group?

A: Yes, if DAB wants a greater voice please let us know and we can collaborate with our team. Our intent is to have opportunities to have all parents be a part of.

Q: Multiple high school teachers have been arrested for sexual abuse of minors. Are you concerned about 9th and 10th grade curriculum impacting this?

A: I am not concerned about the 9th and 10th grade curriculum. I am concerned that this abuse has happened. None of these scenarios were related to the literacy curriculum. We also are trying to make it easier to report via Safe2Tell, lessons on reporting, we will continue to do that work moving forward.

Q: Why does PSD allow sexually explicit books in classrooms?

A: (Group determined this was asked and answered and moved on)

Q: How is PSD focusing on endorsing district?

A: Movie theater ads, ValuePak ads, going to have billboards. One in three learners attends a school other than their home school.

Q: I've noticed the city is putting a lot of money into bolstering community engagement. Have you thought about some of the targeting marketing focusing on the value of neighborhood schools?

A: We are definitely being very intentional about elevating our neighborhood schools. I've also stopped sharing our data with local charter schools.

Q: Do you think there's opportunity for more partnerships in the community?

A: I think there would be some opportunities to explore.

Q: Why are charter schools allowed to cater to rich white families?

A: Charter schools have to follow the same law that our public schools do.

Q: How will PSD address demand of removing DEI programs?

A: Our mission has not changed. We support every child every day. We are not experiencing mission drift as a result of the some of the changes at federal level.

Q: What is district plan to follow federal plan re DEI?

A: We're not sure. We are working with state commissioner. We feel confident we are in compliance with both State and Federal law. There are signals that changes may be coming in those spaces. We are trying to proactively put more money in our reserves. One-time dollars is not a sustainable solution.

Q: Is any of that in interest-bearing accounts?

A: Wish CFO was here to answer that. I believe there is a law that prevents us from doing that.

Q: How will PSD protect those facing discrimination? Particularly the black community.

A: The work we do to support marginalized communities has not changed. We have very intentional lessons in place for all of our students. Parents can opt their children out but we think it's important to teach students how to treat others with dignity. We meet with members of community on regular basis to be held accountable.

Q: What age do lessons start?

A: 4th and 6th grade. Scaffolded throughout all grades, but very specific lessons taught in 4th and 6th grades. "How to be an Upstander" started this year.

Q: How will funds for small schools be fairly distributed?

A: We will have to revisit every single year. Demographics change yearly. We need to be thoughtful and adaptable.

Q: Linton lost 150K in federal funding

A: Federal reduction – 4A money was helpful but not sustainable.

Q: Do you support federal defunding of the Education Dept?

A: No I do not. I do not support some of the changes re kicking the can down the road at the state level either. There's a lot to be decided.

Q: How are we going to protect PSD from federal defunding?

A: We have to do that together by facing the situation – identify what's in place and how it is sustainable for at least the next year. This is a starting point not an end point. How do we ensure as we start next year that we aren't having to make mid-year cuts? Let me know if you have ideas for how we can deal with this thoughtfully.

Reminder of town hall tomorrow. If there are things I can do to support you please let me know.

Election results for 2025-26 Executive Team:

Chair: Karrie Grama-Hatfield

Chair-Elect: Sarabeth Lundquist

Secretary: Tory Pappas

Membership: Jenny Miller

Legislative: Sarabeth Lundquist

Academic: Anne Nelsen

Taylor R. thanked everyone for a productive year, and DAB members thanked Taylor for his excellent leadership this year. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Karrie Grama-Hatfield, DAB Secretary