

2012/2013 DAC Progress Report

Presented to BOE on November 6, 2013

The continued focus of the Aspen School District’s Accountability Committee (DAC) for the school year 2012/13, has been to re-vitalize the committee as an effective partner to the BOE and Administration for ensuring a quality education for our students.

Here are the initiatives that were taken on and the corresponding status of each:

Area of Focus	Initiative	Status
Governance	Compliance with bylaws and state mandate requirements.	<p>Committee membership: we maintained compliance committee composition with 2/3 parent representation. District attendance was established as one representative from each school. The middle school was not represented in meetings this year. We are also still in need of fulfilling representatives from two other groups - a community member from a local business and someone from the Latino population.</p> <p>While it is not required, we would like to have representation from each SAC on the DAC. The elementary and middle schools SAC’s were in the process of ‘re-establishing’ this year.</p>
Mission	Deliver on expectations mandated by State.	<p>This year we continued to utilize our established ‘building block’ approach to leverage monthly meetings as opportunities to educate committee on district practices to measure student achievement and other mission related topics.</p> <p>September: conducted assessment of previous year’s activities. (for future years, this will be conducted at last annual meeting) Voted in officers.</p> <p>October: Assessed and voted on project ideas that had been submitted as potential endeavors for the DAC to take on.</p> <p>November: Overview of student assessment tools within district. Reviewed Community School Improvement plan.</p> <p>January: Reviewed Aspen Middle School improvement plan.</p> <p>February: Reviewed both Aspen Elementary and High School improvement plans.</p> <p>March: Reviewed District Unified Improvement Plan, and conducted brief discussion. DAC</p>

		<p>ratified with one recommendation. April: Conducted review of UIP with BOE. Update from Educator Effectiveness Council. Review and vote on project ideas. May: Budgetary review, SAC updates. Conduct DAC assessment of the year’s accomplishments and activities.</p>
	<p>Reviewing new ideas as potential DAC projects.</p>	<p>As part of the DAC responsibility to monitor and make recommendations for improvement in measuring student achievement, our goal is to provide an objective process in which to review ideas from multiple sources – Administration, BOE and the public. This year we reviewed 4 ideas all submitted by DAC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSAP to TCAP, this was submitted in March, 2012 recommending that DAC take on the role of educating parents about these upcoming changes. Result: was determined to not be relevant, due to the change already being implemented with little disruption and/or concern from parents. Vote: not to move forward. - Communication Inventory, this project was also recommended in the previous year, and due to over-scheduled agendas was not discussed. Project goal was to compile an inventory of communication methods and tools currently used throughout district and evaluate effectiveness of each. Then look for gaps, best practices, and/or ways to leverage tools that work to a bigger audience. Result: Although there is support that this would be a useful and beneficial effort, there is not sufficient energy to move the project forward. - Request for Information form, submitted the previous year around discussion of reducing miscommunication and gossiping. Project goal is to provide an avenue for people to submit questions and get the answers published on the website. Result: After further consideration, solution methodology is not ideal for fixing issue. - DAC Roles & Responsibilities, now that the DAC has revised, approved and has functional by-laws it is important for the committee to have a clear understanding of how to implement its roles and responsibilities in accordance with state guidelines. This project will analyze each of the “Powers and Duties of District Accountability Committees” and determine a course of action and implementation plan for each mandate. Result: Steve P., Karen J., and Terri A., have formed a team to move this project forward.