

2024-2025 District Accountability Committee (DAC) Minutes

February 25, 2025, 5:30-7:30pm, Administration Building Boardroom

Topic/Presenter	Notes	Decision
Welcome Introductions Brian Herley, DAC Chair	<p>Brian Herley opened the meeting with introductions and review of the agenda and approval of the minutes from our last meeting on January 28, 2025. Motioned: Chip Paddock, Seconded: Nancy Perry</p> <p>Attendees: Barb Kruse, Brian Herley, Ryan Wilcken, Cas Wingard, Katie Stieber, Kellie Weihman, Sherri Sittner, Kristen Hines, Janet Seter, Jeanne Findley, Sue Teumer, Marcia Venzke, Jamie Schuster, Chip Paddock, Niki Vanessen, Nancy Rumfelt, Mark Iannacito, John Berg, John Dumbleton, Dany Alps, Nancy Perry, Merrily Bowers, Katrina McManus, Carolyn Weinberg, Dawn Kirk, Tracey Wilcken</p> <p>TSD Staff: Melissa Schneider, Laura Copeland, Theo Robison, Nicolette Boston, Marian Hejl, Carrie Bartmann, Todd Piccone, Bob Ebersole, Todd Piccone, Jeremy Lanter, Keely Garren</p>	Approved
NVCS Charter Renewal Marian Hejl	<p>What are charter schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter Schools in Colorado are public, non-profit institutions that do not charge tuition and follow non-discriminatory enrollment practices with no test-in requirements. State Oversight & Accountability: Charter schools must comply with the 	

	<p>federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA),require students to take state assessments, and follow district and state reporting requirements. .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment & Reach: Colorado has 268 charter schools serving over 137,000 students, accounting for 15% of total public school enrollment (2023-24). • Diverse Student Populations: Charter schools serve low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and other special populations across urban, suburban, and rural communities in 70 localities statewide. • Varied Educational Models: Charter schools offer unique academic designs, including longer school days and specialized programs, or curriculum. <p>Charter School Accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair & Equitable Admissions: The school’s choice enrollment process • Legal Compliance: follows state statutes and non-discriminatory admissions practices • Student Support & Services: We are fully integrated into TSD’s Exceptional Student Service Model and partner with the district for supporting ESS students, evaluations, placement, and reporting. • Accountability & Outcomes: Regular evaluations track student success <p>NVCS is the oldest charter school in Thompson School District. K-8 charter school in Loveland, CO. Opened in 2006, an enrollment of 486. Expanded in 2019 and 2022 to 1,004 students. Currently have a waitlist of 143 (K-8)</p> <p>2024-25 Student Demographics</p>	
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	<p>19% Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)</p> <p>22% FRE Eligible</p> <p>1% Multilingual Learners</p> <p>6.9% Students with IEPs</p> <p>6.9% Gifted and Talented Students</p> <p>NVCS Mission: Challenge, encourage, and empower students every day to persevere on their journey to be lifelong learners.</p> <p>NVCS Vision: NVCS is a public school of choice committed to transforming talents to strengths, ideas to actions, and beliefs to character through a creative and challenging learning environment.</p> <p>Where NVCS is now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NVCS has maintained our rating as a Performance School from the Colorado Department of Education School Performance Frameworks from 2010-2024 • Designated as a School of Distinction in 2019 for our SPF score of 90.0 • NVCS Serves as a Learning Lab school for the Charter School Institute for our MTSS Framework. • NVCS was a presenter at the League of Charter Schools for our MTSS Framework--highlighted the collaboration with TSD under the Insured Model. • NVCS Continues to perform above state averages in a majority of our 	
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	<p>grades K-8 in regard to achievement scores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on our 2024 Culture and Climate Student Survey over 78% of our middle school students are involved in community based activities/programs and 82% of middle school students are involved in one or more school sponsored extracurricular activities. • 98% of staff are highly qualified and certified in the state of Colorado. <p>Students Achievement: 2024 School Performance Framework Rating: Performance Plan with 64% of points earned and a 95% testing participation rate.</p> <p>Inclusive and Supportive Culture: 2023-24 Student Bloomsight Surveys (K-8): I feel safe at school: 88%. I feel connected to at least one adult at school: 96%. My teachers care about me: 92% Yes. I look forward to coming to school: 94% Yes</p> <p>2022-23 Parent Survey: My student is receiving a solid academic foundation at NVCS: 91%. My student feels safe at school: 96%. I appreciate the character education my student receives: 93%. Communication from the school is clear and accurate: 87%. I feel welcome and supported by the staff and teachers: 83%. I feel New Vision has a good variety of extracurricular offerings: 85%</p> <p>Staff retention rates for the past three school years: 2021-22 to 2022-23 = 80% retained</p>	
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	<p>2022-23 to 2023-24 = 83% retained 2023-24 to 2024-25 = 93% retained</p> <p>Stewardship of Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable enrollment, solid demand, and history of sound academic outcomes • Growing unrestricted reserves, supporting healthy liquidity for the rating • Experienced management team with thoughtful strategic planning and a demonstrated execution of operational goals • Favorable relationship with its charter authorizer, Thompson School District No. R2-J, with three successful charter renewals--The most recent renewal was in 2019 for the maximum five-year term through June 2025. • NVCS continues to meet or exceed its annual student enrollment projections and regularly exceed its bond requirement of 1.17 reserved. <p>NVCS Strategic Plan: At New Vision Charter School, we have identified strategic imperatives that drive our school community forward. We are committed to building operational excellence, nurturing the well-being and success of our students and staff, fostering purposeful innovation at our core, and magnifying our positive impact on all those we serve. To achieve these ambitious goals, we recognize the importance of aligning our strategic priorities with effective operational processes and developing a culture that champions success. Our Strategic Plan, collaboratively crafted by our community, remains steadfast in guiding our actions and aspirations.</p>	
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	<p>At NVCS, the Board of Directors demonstrates a strong commitment to compliance with Open Meeting and Sunshine laws, ensuring transparency and accountability in all operations. Compliance is a priority and is discussed at every Board meeting.</p> <p>Board Subcommittees and Parental Engagement Finance committee, Committee of 2 (Evaluation/Strategic Planning), Parent Teacher Organization (Fundraising and Parent Engagement), and Family Leadership Group (continuous improvement and surveys)</p> <p>Feedback/Questions: i-Ready is our local assessment. i-Ready is real time results. i-Ready is done beginning, middle, and end of the year. CMAS we get the following school year. What can we do differently in our schools that NVCS is excelling at? TSD, LCS, and NVCS work hand in hand together and learn from one another.</p>	
<p>Possible Bond Ideas and new CFO Todd Piccone and Bob Ebersole</p>	<p>Introduction of our new CFO: Bob Ebersole</p> <p>November 2024 Election Data: See the breakdown of where it polled well and where it didn't. We will continue to communicate. We need to review this information to learn from it.</p> <p>TOTAL DISTRICT NEED (needs through 2030): \$515,000,000: Maintenance: \$294,000,000 CLASSROOM / EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS (includes AC): \$135,000,000 Growth: \$75,000,000 Safety: \$12,000,000</p>	

	<p>Moving Forward:</p> <p>We know there is a significant need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option of No-tax impact - covers critical needs • Option of tax increase - covers more needs but substantial needs will remain <p>Investing in People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Levy 2025 or 2026 <p>Inform and Feedback</p> <p>Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommended planning amount is ~\$100,000,000 (assumes an ~7.5% Access Valuation increase): Ed Enhancement - All schools \$ 13M; Maintenance - Critical Needs \$38M; Security -Vestibules at remaining schools \$8M; Growth IVY & BES only \$42M 2. \$220M: Growth \$74M; Educational Enhancements \$78M; Security \$10M; Maintenance \$58M 3. Special Levy: \$13M: Capital Construction, Maintenance Fund, New/Upgraded Technology. An approximate 3.974 mill property tax increase would cost a homeowner about \$26.53 annually, or \$2.21 a month, per \$100,000 of a home's value. <p>Feedback:</p> <p>3 different taxes on the ballot, not sure what the technology piece was. We did learn that we need to engage the school communities better and in a different way.</p> <p>If the federal department of education shuts down how will that impact us? We are looking into that. We don't have an exact number. The state is helping us understand that and giving us great information. Shutdown may not mean no federal funds.</p> <p>Money impacted by federal funds: Title funding (pay for FRL, pay for professional</p>	
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	development, etc.), E-Rate (technology, library), Perkins funding (Career and Technology education), IDEA (funding that largely supports our special education, Medicaid (special education, 504 plans, ect.), Head Start program.	
2024 Graduation Rates Theo Robison and Carrie Bartmann	<p>Four years of on-time graduation rates based on Anticipated Year of Graduation (AYG) cohort by school and district.</p> <p>Our rate of 90.0 surpasses the state average of 84.2%</p> <p>Our graduation rate for our males is higher than the state average by 6.8%. Our female graduation rate is higher than the state's by 4.9% for females. We can also see a 2.9% difference between our TSD female and male graduation rates.</p> <p>We have increased the graduation rate for English Learners, and Gifted and Talented Learners.. However, we see decreases in our Highly Mobile and Students with Disabilities graduation rates.</p> <p>Our graduation rate gains at Berthoud HS, Loveland HS and Loveland Classical Charter School. At Thompson Valley HS, we see a 2.4% decrease in the graduation rate and 6% decrease in the grad rate at MVHS. With that being said each of our comprehensive high schools graduate rates exceeds the state average of 84.2%. Ferguson HS has increased the graduation rate by an astounding 11.6% from 2022-2023 to 2023-2024.</p> <p>Dropout rates for students grade 7th -12th grade. A dropout is a student who leaves our schools without enrolling into another school or education program. Our TSD dropout rate is 1.3% which is lower than the state's 1.9% average.</p>	

	<p>A .4% decrease in our male dropout rate from 2023 to 2024. We also see a .2% decrease in our female dropout rate.</p> <p>A decrease in our dropout rate in all race categories except for students who are American Indian or Alaska Native. We saw an increase of 3.6% with that student group.</p> <p>Continued work we need to do in further supporting our students who are English Learners disabilities who increased by .5% We saw decreases in all other student groups. As we further strengthen our FHS Options GED Program we will expect to see these rates continue to decrease.</p> <p>TSD drop out rate has decreased by .4%. TVHS saw a decrease in their dropout rate by .9% and MVHS saw a decrease of 1.4%! As we currently re-evaluate our credit recovery and unit recovery processes and platforms based on teacher and student feedback and as our comprehensive high school continue to support our leadership at Ferguson HS with ensuring potential dropouts have access to our GED program FHS Options, we expect to see our dropout rate continue to decrease.</p> <p>DPF Connection Reviewed Middle-of-Year Reading Data K-8 Reviewed Middle-of-Year Reading Growth Data K-8</p>	
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	<p>Reviewed Middle-of-Year Math Data K-8</p> <p>Reviewed Middle-of-Year Math Growth Data K-8</p> <p>High School PSAT/SAT Prep:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students took a practice test in Illuminate DNA in October (more standards based to give teachers an idea of where students need help) • Full Practice Test Given Monday, March 3rd, in Bluebook • PSAT/SAT Assessment will be Wednesday, April 16 	
<p>Closure</p> <p>Melissa Schneider</p> <p>Brian Herley, DAC Chair</p>	<p>Looking ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March: Comprehensive Needs Assessment (annually done for State and Federal Programs); Begin work on Recommendations and Celebrations • April: Finish and finalize Recommendations and celebrations 	<p>No decision required</p>