



The purpose of the SAC is to inform, encourage, and provide opportunities for parents and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school's instructional program and quality improvement processes.

Renaissance Secondary School

School Accountability Committee (SAC)

Agenda /Minutes

April 13, 2026, 5:30pm

Attendance	SAC Members: Paula Barrons, Zach Watts, Shannon Herzog, Ryan Lazarony, Amy Stuart Members not in attendance: Scott Mengel, Kristen Gerstner Others in Attendance: N/A
Opening Reading	Scott Mengel Amy Stuart: Ubuntu quote (paraphrased, it is so beautiful) "...we belong in a bundle of lifewe are inextricably bound to each other...I am human because I belong..."
Open Forum*	*During open forum, each attendee may share for up to three minutes thoughts and ideas that relate to SAC. Questions about the school's program or non-SAC related comments or questions should be sent directly to school staff: info@rensec.org. Talafuse asked Mr. Watts to ask for a soccer field Referee program—huge success for the girls and they will also be doing a news piece too which is really amazing. This program might expand into HS and college and could make a huge impact on sports programs etc.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Minutes February 9, 2026 Zach Watts made a motion to accept/approve. Paula seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

District Accountability Committee (DAC)	Zach: Schedules don't mesh- Feb. was a light month based off minutes. Mostly about strategic plan. Presentation around DC Kid (kids identified with dyslexia), Mill Levy override opportunity, more details about extending funds to 2030 from previous Mill Levy. We need additional SRO, curriculum investments, career/tech programs, compensation, etc. There are tax ramifications for this—grape vine says it will be a tough year. They referenced the survey that was sent out— Of 18 charters only 3 responded etc. 66% response rate overall. This goes out to each SAC annually to collect and report—nothing earth shattering here—can't drop any of it—it's all important. There isn't a lot of extra money to go around so not much convo here. One more year for CR and Parker to still have 6th grade in elementary school. HR no longer has any 6th grade in their elementary schools. Interesting numbers from projections and from the financial side-2,000 drop over the next four years, the district is shrinking but no more than we already knew. Presentation in agenda about strategic plan will be coming if you have curiosity, a heavy carry over from January was UIP accountability update.
Parent Crew Foundation	Paula: Meeting was on March 4th. This year we've had inconsistency with PCF. Usually it is quarterly or every other month depending on events happening. RCR has been postponed. Rescheduled for October 2026. A few reasons for postponing the event: the board of Parent Crew didn't have any one specifically appointed for the event—it is a lot to do. The folks didn't feel like they had the same skills for the event so there was a lot of conversation about the idea of the fundraiser itself. Too much money spent on the party itself takes away from the monies raised. Valid concerns. It came down to things like getting a free auctioneer, catering etc. It was really hard to get off the ground and then Kristen's husband

passed away unexpectedly. The venue worked with us so we didn't lose money by postponing until next fall.

Some vocalization about not wanting to raise money for smartboards. Her viewpoint was a lot about e-waste and not contributing to this problem and maybe we should fix the projectors etc. Lots of dissent. It has been a challenging year in regards to forward movement in this area.

Ryan: Some feedback-the auction can be uncomfortable for some folks. There is a disparity in the audience that may contribute to this unease. An event with higher ticket prices that would be a fun event/charity dinner.

Amy: We have had this event 7 times and it has always been successful. Not everyone is going to be happy.

Paula: smaller contributions would be great for the middle people who can't afford the bigger items.

Some people like it, some people don't-

Paula: let's be proactive about tech rather than wait for things to fail, this is important to have tools for our kids. The cost of maintaining old equipment is tough, tech debt is real. Zach would have a hard time saying that staying with the old is the right thing.

Ryan: old equipment also poses more of a security risk too.

Paula: Good reminder that a survey went out and everyone had a chance to participate.

Amy: lots of data and factors about cash drive focus things, what comes out is that the event typically works better than a "cold" drive. It is great because it also builds relationships and builds community.

Trying to preserve this event because it has worked and it has also served the people/community.

Paula:

	Staff snacks have continued, penny wars (but no monetary results), staff dinners, staff birthday cards, Teacher appreciation week, Prom committee both underway. After prom at the Rec. Fall homecoming committee has started, trying to get ahead of it. Board members needed for next year. There will be two roles: -President -Treasurer May 6th is the next meeting. Need some brainstorming/recruiting for next year. Fresh start!
Staff Update	Shannon Herzog: Professional Development - focusing on pipeline work and emphasis on fieldwork and experts, book studies in professional learning communities, leveling-up durability of curriculum State Testing - happening now, iReady coming up Hired student teacher - winning soccer coach Wish week - successful! Raised over \$7,000 Student Leadership Team does a great job Talent Show - amazing NJHS - working on Transformative Student Voice with CU. Getting close to presenting a revised school policy. Huge induction in February -almost fifty students. Have a second group working on a new initiative Athletics - going well! Staff meals and treats- so grateful!
School Leader Report	Since February there has been so many great events! Evergreen ball Chicago the musical-fantastic! Best show here, says Ryan and Zach. They were adjudicated and on the last show she was beaming, happy, it was great because they give feedback to some of the lead roles and the program in general so it really helps grow.

Spring band and choir concert really growing and doing a great job
Adventure ed lots of action: hut trips in 10th were really great,
Athletics really leveled up-cheer and basketball. We are well on our way
with CHSAA. We played teams that were really advanced, JV basketball
did better while varsity struggled but they sure hustled and didn't give
up.

Yes, we do need a facility! Biggest challenge of course but we have a lot
to celebrate anyway.

Wish Week: Canoe trophy for MS and Oar trophy for HS.
Talent show, Color run, pink hair on Amy! We raised over \$7000!

Shamrock Stampede and DCSD Job Fair! We got our name out there,
connected with the community. We are popular at these events because
we are really different and "we know what is going on at our school"
Hosted at the Legacy Campus. Almost every school is represented. Amy
talked with a lot of people.

One thing that we heard was that Cherry Creek was making a lot of
changes to perhaps people from there will head our way?

DCSD New Board Members: Tony Ryan (CR resident) and Kelly Denzler
(Parker)

Director Callahan is coming tomorrow 4/14

Director Gieger is coming next week

Apple Awards: Delia Hardy and David Talafuse!

Farm Share Welcome Center Installation for the Lucas Family Farm (bid
at auction)

The farm is going well-6th grade has been running a lot of the farm, next
steps-business!

Spring day trips: aside from seniors and 8th graders everyone else goes
out on day trips.

North Table Mountain is a fairly new trip and it has been received really
well.

Dawson's Butte-for 7th graders

We are talking about taking 6th graders out more often to teach skills
and teambuilding without an overnight trip-this overnight can backfire
since we don't know the kids yet.

Hiring:

- HS counselor -Jolei Patton
- MS Language Arts-Faith Gauthier
- MS Social Studies-Lisa Conway
- HS Special Ed-Brandon Birdwell

Open/In-progress:

- Counselor (MS)
- Instructional Assistant
- Front Desk/Substitute Coordinator
- Facilities

Lots of great applicants coming in! We have tough decisions to make but this is a great problem to have.

PD and Workplan

Instructional Professional Development

- walkthroughs
- Pineapple Charts
- Coaching, book studies, PLCs

MTSS

- Kid Talks
- Streamlined process

Coming up:

- RCR
- 8th grade passage presentation
- Prom
- Senior Capstone Conference & Community Night
- Graduation
- Middle School Musical-Between the Lines
- Spring Exhibition Night

Expansion Updates:

- Application for expansion to include grades k-5
- Submitted April 1, 2026
- Other support-letters and speaking at hearings
- Unification of schools idea is afloat

Public Hearings:

- #1 Tuesday, April 21st
- #2 Tuesday, May 12th (Hearing and Vote)

	To the best of Amy's knowledge, we are the only ones applying! This could be helpful, if true. Dr. Callahan is def. Not anti-charter, he is very aware that the only place growing in the district is the east side of CR. Tony Ryan seemed amenable too. Boards don't typically go against superintendents. We have the unification, we have a state appeal (within 90 days). Unification of REMS-some are scared of it, some are really excited, there also isn't a call to action-nothing horrible is happening- The principal they hired is newer to elementary, none with EL or project based learning-this could be good or bad? We won't convolute the expansion with the unification idea- They are two separate things. If any of you are inclined on speaking or writing a letter for the next hearings that would be great.
Budget Priorities for 2026-2027	The group discussed budget priorities including salary increases for staff. The state says we should be prepared for a flat per pupil revenue. Maybe a 2% increase. We apply for grants regularly from the state. Some grants are on the chopping block. There are several major grants we have applied for. Fundraising is also something we have already talked about. Though we get the same PPF and Mill Levy money we must cover our facilities costs from this. If the state is giving you no more money, and you want to give your teachers a 2% raise like the district is doing, we have to use the fund balance. However, they want to see a balanced budget, we have to present a balanced budget that shows where we can cut that 2% elsewhere. The governor has said he is committed to staying the course with funding.

	SAC is to provide input on these priorities. Student fees have never been raised (since 2017). A small increase could really help with rising expenses. We have also been building up things that stay (not consumable). We can tighten up on “consumables” as much as possible. There was a discussion about whether fees should be raised along with expenses to create sustainability. Also, we always have waivers and scholarships for families that can’t pay. Looking at the logistics of how the fees are broken down. Zach: A full analysis of fees, and being transparent, competitive, you hold to them, they are usually accepted pretty well. You will always have a little bit of push back but Paula: there is no predictability with the state. New administration coming in. Lots of ball is in the air, unsettled CDE funding needs to be anticipated. Amy: there are a ton of nuances that could change the convo- -we have a healthy fund balance -the state could come through -the mill levy extension could prevail -how do we make sure we maintain our mission for field work etc.
SAC Nominations	Kristen’s seat is up - nomination forms will go out shortly.
Calendar – Next meeting dates & reading	August TBD In August, specific roles will be designated.
Adjournment	Paula moved to adjourn. Ryan seconds, and adjournment is unanimous.

*During open forum, each attendee may share for up to three minutes **thoughts and ideas that relate to SAC**. Topics brought to SAC may be put on a future agenda for discussion. Speakers must observe rules of decorum and not engage in other disruptive behavior. If a speaker is in the middle of a sentence when time is called, he/she may finish their thought before sitting down. The time guidelines ensure that others will have an opportunity to speak. Speakers may not allot their time to others. SAC open forum is designed for parents or community members to bring items to the SAC and is not a question/answer session. **Questions about the school's program or non-SAC related comments or questions should be sent directly to school staff: info@rensec.org.**