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To: Board of Education
From: District Accountability Committee
Re: DAC Recommendation of the 2026-2027 Budget
Date: June 22, 2026

Good afternoon, Board of Education,

On June 17, 2026, the District Accountability Committee received a presentation from Kara Drake on the proposed budget for the 2026–2027 school year. We appreciate the thoughtful work that has gone into developing this plan and recommend that the proposed budget be adopted. At the same time, we would like to highlight several priorities and concerns we believe should remain central in future budget cycles.

First, we strongly believe that maintaining the district’s schedule for adopting new or updated curriculum must remain a top priority. High-quality, current instructional materials are essential to strong Tier 1 instruction and to ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all students. Second, we encourage a careful review of technology purchases for students. The district should clearly understand the instructional benefits relative to the costs, particularly considering ongoing fiscal constraints and the need to prioritize investments that directly support learning. We also appreciate that the proposed budget maintains a 10% reserve. We view this reserve as critical for the upcoming year and for the district’s long-term financial stability.

As a reminder, the DAC’s stated priorities for the 2026–2027 budget focus on learning and student support. These include:

- **Tier 1 instruction**, the foundation of academic success for all students
- **Special Education staffing**, ensuring compliance, appropriate services, and equitable access
- **Early-intervention screening**, which reduces long-term costs and improves student outcomes
- **Co-teaching and cross-training models**, which strengthen instructional quality and flexibility
- **Instructional hours**, which directly impact learning time and student achievement

Thank you for your continued service to the Summit School District and for your thoughtful consideration of these priorities as you finalize the budget for the coming school year.

Lorna Frey
DAC Chair