Welcome

February has been a hectic month with a heightened and renewed focus on completing the charges tasked to the District Accountability Committee (DAC) by the Board of Education (BOE). I want to thank all the DAC members for continuing to trudge through the "dog days of winter" with the central focus being the overall advancement of district students, schools, and resources.

DAC Budget Subcommittee got a preliminary look at the 2018-19 Budget development process. The handy computer tool developed by Chief Financial Officer, Glenn Gustafson, and his team to help balance the District Budget was reviewed. The group also deliberated over the District's Marketing Plan with thoughtful comments and questions. Considerable time was invested in discussing the root cause and reasons for students permitting in and out of the District schools.

DAC Accreditation Subcommittee received a report on the additional resources available to Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools. System Improvement Specialist, Jeremy Koselak, updated the DAC on ACT schools (Academic Systems, Culture of Performance, & Talent Development) in the District and the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in place to provide expedited resources and support to ACT schools. Accreditation Subcommittee is continuing to study the achievement gaps at district schools in preparation for reviewing the Unified District Improvement Plan (UDIP) at the end of this month.

The Training and SAC Support Subcommittee successfully hosted the third SAC Training Session on February 1st, 2018. The session focused on the use and overall impact of Galileo K-12 assessments at district schools. A report from Lyman Kaiser on that night's training session is included in this newsletter. The Subcommittee will also host the final Training Session on April 5th, 2018 and will provide an updated agenda in the coming weeks.

Over the past couple of months, the district was informed of the impending retirement of both Dr. Nicholas Gledich, Superintendent and Dr. Mary Thurman, Deputy Superintendent. On behalf of the DAC, I want to thank both of them for their unflinching commitment and selfless service for the betterment of School District 11. All of us at the DAC are appreciative of the professionalism, dedication, and leadership provided by Dr. Gledich and Dr. Thurman.

Happy Spring Break from everyone at the DAC!

Dr. Parth Melpakam, DAC Chair
District Support to Priority Improvement and Turnaround schools - Update

Jeremy Koselak, ICSS System Improvement Specialist, provided a detailed briefing on the ACT School Framework and support to ACT schools at the Feb 15th DAC meeting. “ACT” stands for the three areas highlighted as having the most leverage for our schools:

- **Academic Systems** – *Design and implement a rigorous, aligned, and engaging academic program with a specific focus on data driven instruction.* The District will provide a set of clear and coherent curricular supports and assessment systems that align to the Colorado Academic Standards and facilitate effective data driven instruction. ACT schools will be expected to address Essential Actions pertinent to individual site needs and align plan to school improvement plan.

- **Culture of Performance** – *Foster a positive learning environment that engages families and community members in the school.* The District will create a system-wide environment that establishes clear mission driven goals with high levels of shared accountability. ACT schools will be expected to address Essential Actions pertinent to individual site needs and align plan to school improvement plan.

- **Talent Development** – *Employ systems and strategies to recruit, develop, evaluate, and retain excellent teachers and support staff.* The District will plan and implement a strategic approach to hiring, developing and retaining teachers and leaders that supports the ACT schools. ACT schools will be expected to address Essential Actions pertinent to individual site needs and align plan to school improvement plan.

The current D11 ACT schools program includes all schools on Priority Improvement and Turnaround status plus schools in the CDE Turnaround Network, but the concepts are applicable for all schools. Jeremy’s briefing and report detail the support being provided, expectations and procedures for monitoring results. The monitoring program is closely aligned with what SACs should be doing on the USIP. We URGE you to check out the report at [https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Doma in/538/Hand-Outs%](https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/Hand-Outs%)

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parent."

- Jane D. Hull
2017 – 2018 District 11 PLC Team Bright Spots Research

At the November 9, 2017 SAC Training Session, David Engstrom, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, Curriculum, and Support Services (ICSS) briefed the group on the D11 Bright Spots Initiative for 2017 -2018. The goal of that initiative was to feature PLC teams from schools with high growth on the CDE School Performance Framework for 2016 – 2017, learn from them and share that learning across the system as a means of systematic improvement. The written version of this Bright Spots Research report is now available on the DAC webpage at https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/Bright%20Spots%20Research%20Report.pdf

Patrick Henry Elementary School Recognized as Model PLC School

In 2014, Henry ES had a state rating of Priority Improvement. The principal and staff examined assessment data, planned and adopted a whole-school reading intervention program, involved all stakeholders in creating a new vision outlining what they wanted Henry to be known for in the future, and collaborated to develop a new mission and school-wide performance goals to guide the work.

In 2016, Henry’s SPF rating moved to Performance, with a score more than 20 points above the cutoff for the Improvement category. In 2017, that SPF score grew an additional eight points, maintaining the rating of Performance and achieving the second highest SPF score in the District.

Because of the tremendous improvement in such a short amount of time, Solution Tree has recognized Henry Elementary School as a Model PLC (Professional Learning Community) school. Henry is one of only three schools in Colorado to earn this honor. Other D11 schools are being encouraged to visit Henry and learn from their experience/success. [Note: Improving the focus and effectiveness on school PLCs is a major strategy in many D11 school USIPs for 2017 – 2018. Is improving PLC effectiveness being worked hard in your school?]

What’s Next, Senior? Options After High School

On Thursday, March 1, 2018 from 3:45—6:15pm, Roy J Wasson Campus, seniors will have the opportunity to attend workshops and hear current college students and young military professionals share their experience. Workshop topics include:

- Choosing the “Right Fit for You”
- Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Meet the Military
- Resume & Networking
- Ready for Work & Resources
SAC News

Request for Success Stories to Share with other SACs—we are still looking for great examples

We are looking for “success” stories to share as testimonials, especially in the following areas:

- Examples of school and SAC teams working together effectively to monitor and evaluate the implementation and successes related to their USIP major strategies and actions
- Examples of successful parent engagement programs in schools, especially those that engage parents in helping their children improve academic achievement

Send your “success” stories to Trudy Tool at Trudy.Tool@d11.org

Upcoming deadlines of interest to SACs, also the focus of SAC Agendas for March

- If your school took the Galileo K-12 December tests, the results should be available for review at your March SAC meeting, if not reviewed at your Feb meeting.

- Unified School Improvement Plan Timelines:
  - **Priority Improvement and Turnaround Schools:** The Colorado Dept. of Education (CDE) is currently reviewing the plans submitted by Jan 15, 2018 using the UIP Quality Criteria posted on the CDE website UIP Resources page. Feedback will be made available to schools through the online “Collaboration” tab as it becomes available. If this applies to your school, keep checking with your principal regarding feedback. Required updates, based on the feedback, must be submitted to meet the April 16, 2018 final submission date.
  - **All other schools:** Final USIPs are due to CDE for all schools by April 16, 2018. Now is a good time to evaluate how well your USIP is working and make changes as necessary before the April deadline.

DAC Membership for 2018-2019

- If any SAC and/or DAC member knows of parents or community members who would have an interest in participating in DAC for the next school year, please contact Wendy Chiado, DAC Membership Subcommittee Chair, at wchiado@aol.com.
SAC News Continued

SAC Training Sessions on February 1, 2018—Recap

SAC Training Session February 1 – Results:

- There were 24 schools represented and 47 attendees.
- The session focused on Galileo K-12 assessment and learning support materials and use in instruction with an emphasis on how to leverage the materials in daily instruction.
- Natasha Crouse, EDSS and Galileo K-12 trainer, provided an overview of D-11 plans for Galileo K-12, Projected Proficiency reports, Parent’s guide to Galileo K-12 data, and how to use assessment data to empower instruction.
- School level testimonials were also provided by Darren Joiner, principal at Jenkins MS; Natasha North, sixth grade teacher at Russell MS; and Jason Nienhueser, fifth grade teacher at Edison ES.
- In addition, information was provided on support available from the Khan Academy and College Board to prepare for PSAT and SAT assessments at the high school level. If you did not attend, we encourage you to review the training session handouts available at https://www.d11.org/cms/lib/CO02201641/Centricity/Domain/538/SAC%20Training%20Hand-outs%20-%20February%201%202018.pdf

SAC Training Session Thursday April 5, 2018 – SAVE THE DATE:

- We plan to wrap up the year with an information packed session in a new format. We will have presentations on five topics, given three times each so participants can attend sessions on three different topics of interest.
- Bring multiple members from your SAC/community and participate in all five! We are working to provide presentations on;
  b) New initiatives in social emotional learning (SEL) to include the latest on suicide prevention.
  c) Discipline challenges and latest discipline data available.
  d) Latest on the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) program, and also Concurrent Enrollment for D11, and last but not least,
  e) Latest on parent/teacher/school communication initiatives in D11.
**District News**

- Congratulations to Daniels Fund Scholarship Finalists:
  - Alyssa Ann Scadito, Doherty High School
  - Angelis Noah Torres, Mitchell HS
  - Samantha Tobin Freeman, Palmer High School
  - Jessica Ann Lane and JeNisa Patrice Manning, Odyssey ECCO

Daniels Scholarships are awarded to outstanding young people form Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming who possess strong character, a motivation to succeed, a willingness to work hard, and a commitment to actively engage in their communities.

- Congratulations to 2018 District 11 Spelling Bee Finalists:
  - Mae Shaeffer, Holmes Middle School
  - Jacob Clark, Russell Middle School
  - Spencer Stepp, Sabin Middle School
  - Michael Wofford, Sabin Middle School

Good luck to these students in the upcoming Denver Post 2018 Colorado State Spelling Bee on March 10, 2018.

**Coronado HS**

- The Space Foundation has chosen Coronado HS as a recipient of a special program.

- The Space Foundation is building the next generation of space leaders and improving the overall quality of education through teacher, student and community programs that use space themes to improve students’ interest and skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

- On Wednesday, February 28, 2018, an astronaut will present an hour long assembly from 12:30—1:30pm followed by three break-out sessions and activities facilitated by space education specialists in three separate classrooms from 1:45—2:30pm.

- The presentation and Q & A session will be with Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Duane “Digger” Carey. Digger joined NASA’s Astronaut Corps in 1996. In 2002, he piloted the Space Shuttle Columbia on mission STS-109, a servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope. During his ten-plus days in space, Digger and his crew covered over 3.9 million miles and circled the Earth 165 times.