

PSD District Advisory Board

February 3, 2025
7:00-9:00pm
Boardroom

Meeting Agenda:

Time (Approximate)	Topic	Presenter
7:00 - 7:05	Welcome	DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie
7:05 - 7:10	Approval of December Minutes	All
7:10 - 7:20	Committee Updates	Membership Chair - Sara Merrill Legislative Committee - Sarabeth Lundquist District Accountability Committee - Ashley Barrett Academic Committee - Jami Montoya
7:20 - 7:30	BoE Updates	BoE, DAB Liaison - Jim Brokish
7:30 - 8:00	UIP and Strategic Plan Update	PSD - Dwayne Schmitz and Julie Chaplain
8:00 - 8:30	Transportation Update	PSD - Dave Montoya
8:30 - 8:55	Chair Elect Nominations	DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie
9:00	Closing	DAB Chair – Taylor Ritchie

DAB Attendance – February 3, 2025

Taylor Unwin (Bamford); Sara Bryan (Bauder); Tory Pappas (Beattie); Latoya Noel (Beattie); Mike Thomas (Bennett); Brett Hansen (Bethke); Faith Fritsch (Blevins); Stephanie Matthews (Boltz); Carrie DeJulio (CLP E); Chelsea Wisdom (CLP E); Marissa Herman (CLP E); Beth Reynolds (CLP MS); Jodi Quass (Compass); Karrie Grama-Hatfield (Kruse); Marybeth Rigali-Oiler (Kruse); Jami Montoya (Laurel); MaryBeth Cheversia (Leshner); Jenny Miller (Lincoln); Jon Danielson (Linton); Katrina Toth-Green (Linton); Kevin Dorn (Olander); Sarabeth Lundquist (Polaris); Dave Godlove (Polaris); Jenna Goupil (Poudre HS); Anne Nelson (Putnum); Michelle Finchum (RMHS); Christy Haldeman (Timnath MHS); Sara Merrill (Traut/Kinard); Taylor Ritchie (Webber); Lee Romsa (Wellington); Stacy Armstrong (PSD Global); Jim Brokish (BOE); Ashley Barrett (DAC); Aaron Green (SEAC); Andrew & Beth Spain (Community); Mackenzie Mushel (Community); Kelsie Parks (Community)

DAB Meeting 2-3-25

7:03 – Meeting began; opening remarks by Taylor and review of agenda

Explanation of Chair Elect role – sub if needed for Chair, organize and lead Executive Committee meetings, planning meeting each month, helping with emails and paperwork. Appx. 3 hours per month time commitment for Chair Elect. Chair Elect then becomes Chair for following year. Taylor spends about 3-5 hours per month in role (outside of monthly DAB meeting). Next month holding election for the position. Chair Elect position lasts for the rest of this year, then Chair Elect becomes Chair for all of next school year.

Motion to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes: minutes approved

Committee updates

Membership Committee (Sara Merrill):

Sara spends appx. 1 hour outside of DAB meetings on emails/spreadsheets; 3 hours max per month outside of meeting. Enters reps/schools info into spreadsheet; updates info, does not need to respond to all emails – just membership. Membership update: two of the schools interested in hybrid option for DAB meetings. Taylor will investigate options moving forward.

Legislative Committee (Sarabeth Lundquist):

Little room for new education bills this season due to budget cuts. Two opportunities to meet with Bryan Kingsley coming up in February.

Superintendent meeting: 5:30-6:30

Thursday, February 6: Boltz Middle School

Thursday, February 13: Blevins Middle School

Talk with School Board members: 5:30-7 on Thursday, Feb. 20

○ Kruse Elementary School

○ Dunn Elementary School

Legislative phone call: Friday at noon.

<https://psdschools.diligent.community/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=143>

Education Committee Updates:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/education/2025-regular-session>

Lori Sanders (HD65 LaPorte - Wellington-Timnath communities) is on the Education Committee

- she's a former Timnath Principal.

Discussion about school district consolidations this term, especially in Eastern Plains.

Funding Challenges and Opportunities:

In late January, the Joint Budget Committee reviewed the school finance supplemental for the current fiscal year. Altogether, the committee approved an additional \$64 million for school finance based on higher than anticipated enrollment during the 2024 October Count.

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/lcs_school_finance_presentation.pdf

PSD Floor Funding and Advocacy:

While it's unlikely PSD's floor funding status will significantly change this session, there are incremental opportunities we can explore with our legislators. These include advocating for increases to the overall floor funding level (The Base), targeted funding for our rural schools, and additional support for marginalized students. Even with a tight budget environment, pursuing these incremental changes is worthwhile and aligns with our commitment to improving outcomes for all students. Barkis trying to arrange for advocacy regarding rural schools and changing our funding model at a State level to support those schools. Talk of a site visit

Upcoming Legislation mentioned during Legislative Call:

1. Library Resource Decision Standards for Public Schools

Concerning standards that public schools are required to include in policies regarding library resources.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-063>

2. Safe2tell Handle with Care Notice

Concerning notifying a school when a student has experienced a traumatic event.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-064>

3. Military-Connected Children with Disabilities

Concerning enhancing support for military-connected children with disabilities who enroll in Colorado schools.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-073>

4. Modifications to Colorado Open Records Act

Concerning modifications to the "Colorado Open Records Act".

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-077>

Biggest changes: timeline expanded for compliance with CORA requests, exempts assistive devices, changes the record keeping

5. Protections for Users of Social Media

Concerning protections for users of social media, and, in connection therewith, establishing certain requirements for social media companies.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb25-086>

6. Tech Accessibility Liability Contractor

Concerning noncompliance with requirements regarding technology accessibility for persons with disabilities when the noncompliance is caused by a contractor.

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1152>

Other bills:

7. Concerning measures to enhance the integrity of digital education materials in public schools.

<https://beta.leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1158>

8. Trauma-Informed School Safety Practices

<https://beta.leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB25-027>

9. Food Waste Reduction in Public Schools

<https://beta.leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1059>

10. Communication Devices in Schools

<https://beta.leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1135>

11. Community Schoolyards Grant Program

<https://beta.leg.colorado.gov/bills/HB25-1061>

12. Financial Literacy Bill (possibly still being drafted)

Time commitment for Sarabeth – 30-60 minutes. Each legislative call is about an hour a week, then time to refine notes.

District Accountability Committee (Ashley Barrett):

District Accountability Committee – 2-year role. Help build agenda with DAC and bring info back to the DAB.

At January meeting, heard feedback from budget advisory committee and budget design committee, along with recommendations from DAB; well received. Fantastic presentation about dyslexia and how PSD can best address needs of learners with dyslexia. Building a robust plan to address this moving forward. Trying to ensure response to dyslexia is as consistent as possible across the district. Discussed family engagement. Part of the charge as DAC is to support and facilitate family engagement; DAC brainstormed ideas for family engagement and partnerships. Examples: parent resource groups for parents entering with kindergarteners, various resources we can help build, facilitate, etc. We are an advisory voice so we cannot take a ton of action, but we can make recommendations toward building some systems. Explored ways DAC can possibly help district with decisions re DEI; assisting to help figure out the right path with certain struggles and making sure we

are compliant and mindful about DEI re many decisions that need to be made. Ex: when the honor choir picks music for competitions. DEI is something we need to be mindful of when making decisions.

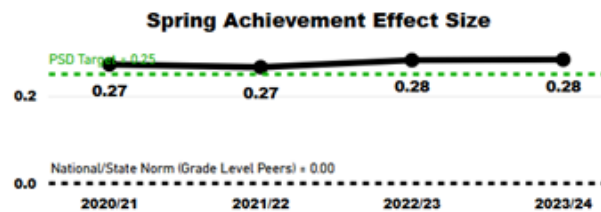
Academic Committee (Jami Montoya):

Commitment to role is about 2-ish hours per month in addition to DAB meeting. Feels like this role could have a small group to make an agenda of pertinent updates per month. Would love feedback on anything we'd all like covered. We've covered a lot this year via the meeting agenda (a little redundant). Open to feedback. Dwayne S. sent an update and discussed the curriculum adoption re elementary literacy; big shift for some of our schools. Hard to know if improvements are due to curriculum or because we are solidly out of the pandemic. PSD has always been pretty solid overall with test scores, but there was a small decline evident pre-pandemic. For a while students were hovering around 50th percentile for growth; now up at about 60th percentile for growth.

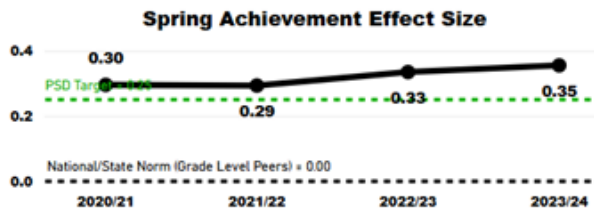
DIBELS 8 (K-3):



MAP (2-5):



CMAS (3-5):



Special Education Advisory Committee (Aaron Green):

SEAC rep – two-year commitment. Meet about 6 times per year. Last meeting had presentation on 3-year plan for dyslexia. Transition fair at Aztlan Community Center Feb 27th from 5-8pm (Fair format; do not need to attend from 5-8) and how individuals can transition into different community roles. SEAC hosting booth at that event. Info about dyslexia was fairly well received. District using and referencing the term “dyslexia” is a big change. Working on greater website accessibility. READ Act

and Science-based learning discussion. SEAC made some recommendations: screening goals should align with statistics. PSD should be screening to find one in five kids, since the data indicates one in five kids has dyslexia. Working on identifying the missing and masked cases of dyslexia that are particularly prevalent in middle and high school; we know we have missed kids with the former past policy of not using the term “dyslexia”. Universal learning: presenting material in a way that is easier for all children.

Question: as of next year people in schools will be able to give an official diagnosis of dyslexia?

Answer: will focus on screening and identifying. DIBELS testing quarterly to try to identify some of that stuff. Wanted to see assessment that can catch kiddos early on. There are about 11 different types of dyslexia; as school adopts a more modern approach of understanding dyslexia we are moving in a different direction.

Board of Education (Jim Brokish):

Communication sessions Feb 20th at Dunn Elementary; Jim visited Red Feather Lakes this morning. Feedback from listening session at Johnson Elementary, spent a lot of the session talking about events of the Spring (Johnson had been on list of schools to possibly be closed previously). Discussion at this session focused largely on school closures. With Mill Levy passing we are not planning on exploring school closures for 3-5 years. Charters and marketing, one parent had been marketed to by a number of other schools. Bell Times discussed too.

Question: What is happening with PCA?

Jim: They are getting a new roof.

Dave Montoya: Plumbing situation – being monitored. If we keep having sewer backup problem we will probably have to replace drain.

Question: Yes, was just wondering if there was any further conversation that the public wasn't aware of yet?

Jim: I haven't found any solutions are that acceptable to me. It's tricky. Back in the board meeting we talked about what are the odds that another building opens up in the next few years? In my mind that's a possibility. By the time we get plans approved and get a building built, we are three years out and that makes no sense.

Question: When you mentioned schools marketing to parents, that's something schools aren't allowed to do?

Jim: I know there was a parent that happened to. Let me do more work on that and get back to you.

Question: Do we have a district policy about how we will handle immigration enforcement?

Jim: I did not bring the statement I was supposed to read to you.

Jim will email the statement to Taylor.

Jim: I don't think this is the spot where we want to become poster child for everything because it can become counterproductive. We are working together to ensure the right things happen.

Comment: I received an ad from McGraw on my social media feed.

Question: Are people finding workarounds to limits on using money to market their schools?

Question: I don't know if people knew about the enrollment survey – did people even know about it? Why was it available for such a short amount of time?

Clarification from Dwayne: there was a two-week window. We don't want to run multiple surveys at the same time.

Comment: Perhaps it should be a requirement for people to complete that survey for school of choice applications

Dr Gile: We do collect some of that information when people apply for school of choice.

Question: Are they required fields?

Dr Gile: I think they are required.

Comment: I really liked the survey, I thought it was great, I just wish more people knew about it.

UIP and Strategic Plan Update (Dwayne Schmitz):

(See presentation slides after initial notes)

UIP is state-required. We as a district choose to have a strategic plan.

What is the data showing us?

Disrupting disproportionality – all of these different outcomes, we are talking about ALL of the outcomes. Why would student outcomes be able to be predicted by knowing certain things like socioeconomic status, etc. Graduation rates have gone up, yet we don't have everyone participating at the same level. Work isn't done no matter how high the outcomes are.

Inclusion and people feeling valued and accepted for who they are is not something we just set aside. Not using the DEI language right now on purpose, but there is a core broader concept (inclusion) that is important.

With a system this large, this work will never be done (re mental health)

(Slide on Grad with Options) – made huge strides in info being made available

Mental Health and belonging chart – data is messy, data is noisy, but is there a “signal” in that noise? Is that data telling us something? All of our numbers moved in the right direction. We are in a serious state of recognition that our students need support.

Grad with options chart – we have hit about 87% now consistently, so it’s time to increase the goal.

We are moving in the right direction and the work isn’t done yet

Comment: Friends of mine who are paraprofessionals want options for training, especially in literacy and sciences.

Dwayne: We are fully aware of this – and it is very expensive. We do hear you 100%.

Comment: COGAT not listed as a test on the literacy measurement tools.

Dwayne: (clarified what COGAT is used for). MAP has an alternative assessment format as well.

Comment: You acknowledged that many of our students on IEPs are not doing as well. Might help if that data is included.

Dwayne: Absolutely agree

Dave – Transportation update



Unified Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan Update

Poudre School District | DAB Meeting
February 3, 2025



Year 2 Strategic Plan Priorities

- **Focusing on disrupting disproportionality**
- **Within three district priorities**
 - Literacy
 - Mental Health and Belonging
 - Graduate with Options



Disrupting Disproportionality

Coherence: alignment of the student's daily academic experience to advance grade level instruction and achievement

Access: removal of barriers to programming and the addition of strategic and evidence-based supports

Rigor: learning aligned to the complexity of grade level standards and challenges students' thinking in new and interesting ways

Environment: respect for student identity, affirm each student's capacity to succeed, and recognize each student's agency and contributions to the classroom, school, and community.



Year 2 Goals and Strategic Actions





Literacy: High Quality Materials and Pedagogy

Highlighted Actions 2023-24:

1. Implemented new K-5 literacy curriculum
2. De-implemented materials not aligned to the science of reading
3. Supported staff in licensed and classified positions through multiple professional learning and coaching opportunities

Highlighted Actions 2024-25:

1. Continued implementation of K-5 literacy curriculum
2. Implementation of 9th and 10th grade language arts curriculum, along with other curriculum
3. Developing an aligned approach for ongoing instructional support for all staff





Mental Health and Belonging: Creating Affirming Environments and Strategic Supports

Highlighted Actions 2023-24:

1. Increased access to mental health providers with interns and new hires through \$13.9M in grants
2. Increased access to community partners
3. Created alignment across the system for mental health services including cross training
4. Created marketing to de-stigmatize accessing mental health and wellness

Highlighted Actions 2024-25:

1. Implementation and development of procedures to investigate and respond to Title IX incidences
2. Explicit education developed for all 4th and 6th grades to prevent incidences of bias or bullying by gender, ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation
3. Implementation of supportive measures for students involved in an incident of bias



Graduating with Options: Greater access to programming

Highlighted Actions 23-24:

- Updated graduation requirements to support access to ICAP aligned opportunities
- Updated the diploma processes and policy for diverse learners
- Increased the availability of postsecondary articulated programs
- Increased student/family awareness of interest-aligned college and career credit/degree/certification opportunities available to every PSD student.

Highlighted Actions 24-25:

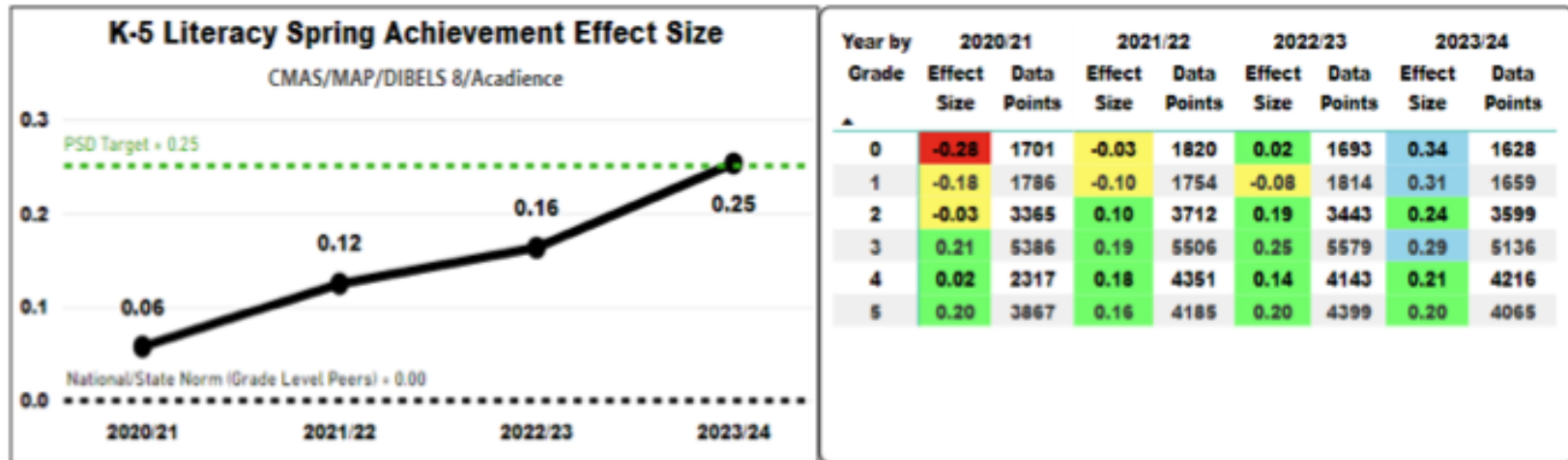
- Updated college & career 4-year pathway plans to align with the class of 2029 diploma requirements.
- Additional automotive and medical assistant pathways, and expansion of advanced manufacturing facilities at the PSD Career Tech Center
- Implementation of ICAP-connected experiences for 8th grade students.
- MS alignment to PSD cell phone policy
- Alignment to PSD attendance policy and supportive measures to address truancy
- Alignment at 6th grade for equitable grading



Measurable Outcomes Thus Far...



Literacy: High Quality Materials and Pedagogy

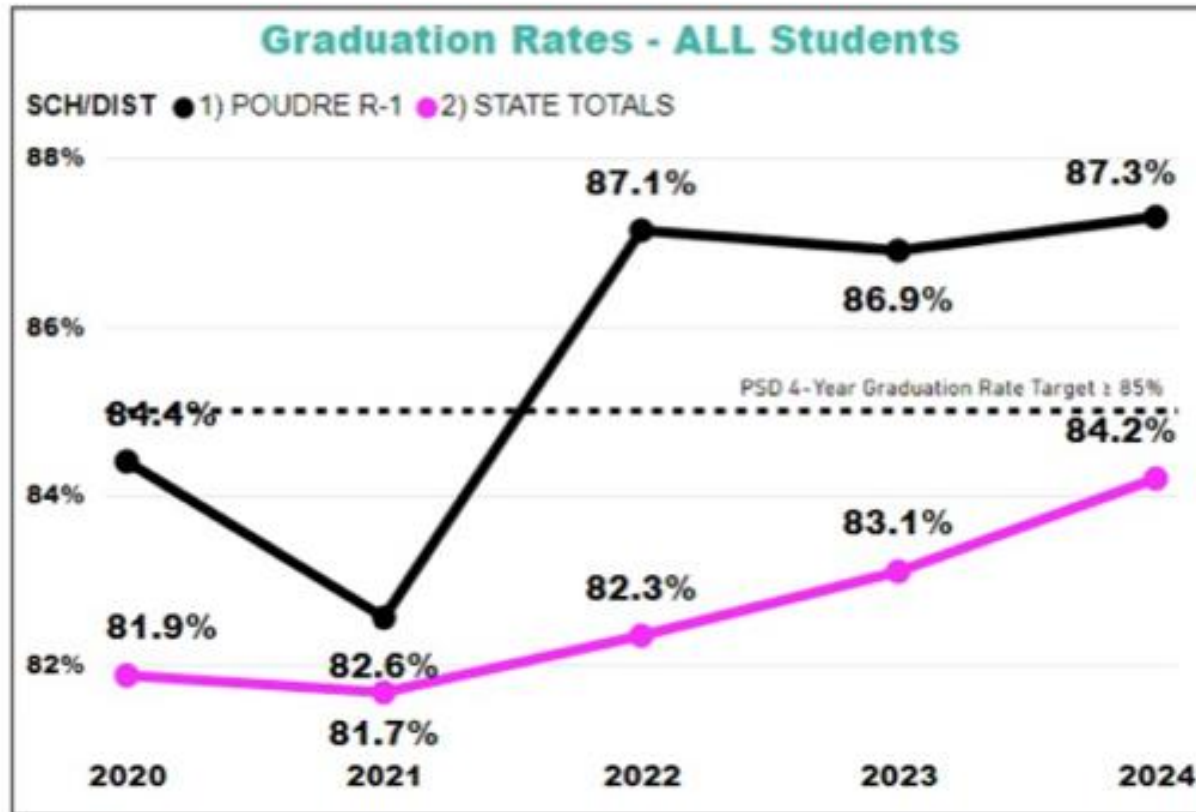


Mental Health and Belonging: Creating Affirming Environments and Strategic Supports

Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Key Items Related to Mental Health				
Percentage of students who...	PSD 2023 Respondents	PSD 2023	PSD 2021	State 2023
Purposefully hurt themselves without wanting to die in the past 12 months	5559	15.3 (14.1 - 16.6)	26.4 (24.8 - 28.0)*	13.1 (12.0 - 14.1)
Agree or strongly agree their stress level is manageable most days	5639	63.3 (62.2 - 64.4)	54.8 (52.7 - 56.8)*	57.7 (56.0 - 59.3)*
Take two or fewer days to feel fully recovered after a stressful situation (bad item)				
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row during the past 12 months that they stopped doing some usual activities	5555	25.2 (23.4 - 27.0)	43.3 (40.5 - 46.1)*	25.7 (24.8 - 26.7)
Seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	5567	11.1 (9.9 - 12.3)	21.4 (20.0 - 22.9)*	11.1 (10.2 - 12.1)
Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months	5558	9.6 (8.8 - 10.3)	15.2 (13.8 - 16.7)*	9.3 (8.6 - 9.9)
Attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	5564	5.4 (5.0 - 5.8)	8.1 (7.3 - 8.8)*	5.5 (4.9 - 6.0)
Have an adult to go to for help with a serious problem	5566	79.6 (78.6 - 80.6)	76.1 (74.1 - 78.2)*	75.4 (74.2 - 76.6)*
Most of the time or always could talk to a friend about feelings during their life	5570	63.0 (61.2 - 64.8)	58.2 (55.7 - 60.7)*	57.6 (56.3 - 58.9)*



Graduating with Options: Greater access to programming



Questions & Discussions



Transportation/Bell Schedules (Dave Montoya):

Intro to topic, there will be QR code at end to provide specific feedback
(See presentation slides below)



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Update on Ongoing Study of Bell Schedules

Poudre School District | Board of Education



Why Are We Here?

- **Significant bus driver shortage begins in 2020 (during COVID-19 pandemic)**
 - Shortage required exploration of cost savings to reduce numbers of routes, cost, and number of drivers needed.
- **Schedules were not standardized by grade level, which made PSD's 2-tier routing less efficient**
 - 14 different morning start times
 - 19 different end times
- **To address these challenges, August 2023 contracted with First Consulting August 2023, a nationally recognized school district transportation consulting firm, was hired to develop a more standardized 3-tier route bell schedule**
 - This schedule is more cost efficient and requires fewer drivers and buses.



Current Bell Schedules/3 Tier Routing

- **Three tier routing structure created by First Consulting:**
 - All middle schools in first tier (earliest start times)
 - All high schools in third tier (latest start times)
 - Elementary schools placed in all three tiers to balance the number of runs and create a middle tier (varied start times)
- **August 2024** implementation required re-routing all students under the new 3-tier model during summer of 2024 for the 2024-25 school year



Observations of Current Structure

Positives

- Reduced 10 routes (123 routes to 113 routes), creating operational and financial efficiencies
 - Savings of approximately \$1.1 million
 - Reduction in number of drivers needed
 - For the first time since 2020, the number of drivers on staff matched the number of routes, however, we still experience driver shortages.
 - Reduction in overtime cost and cost of chartering buses with third parties
- No school moved more than 25 minutes either earlier or later than previous schedule
- Increased the number of triple routes in both the morning and afternoon

Note: Each route costs approximately \$115,000 per route in FY24-25



Observations of Current Structure

Negatives

- Middle schools starting at 7:30am may be viewed as too early
- Elementary schools starting at 9:05am may be viewed as too late
- Savings achieved were not as significant as was hoped



Continued Exploration

- **To shift start times at middle school later, First Consulting began by exploring options in PSD's BusPlanner software**
 - Two model options were considered:
 - 3-tier option that explores changes to the earliest and latest start times in current model
 - 2-tier option that explores earliest and latest start times in the 2023-24 model, which was also a 2-tier model



Options Explored

BusPlanner Bell Time Analyzer used to shift start times and Route Optimizer used to re-package runs based on the following schedule options:

- **Option 1:** 8:00am/8:30am/9:05am starts in a 3-tier model and 8:00am/9:05am starts for a 2-tier model.
 - Afternoon dismissal times must be adjusted based on the required length of the school day
- **Option 2:** 7:45am/8:25am/9:05am starts in a 3-tier model and 7:45am/9:05am starts in a 2-tier
- **Option 3:** 8:00am/8:45am/9:35am starts in a 3-tier model and 8:00am/9:35am starts in a 2-tier model



Evaluation

Schedule	School Start Time	Bus Return	Operating Time	3-Tier # of buses		2-Tier # of buses	
Current 3-tier	7:30-9:05 am	5:30-6:00 pm	95 minutes	113 (base)	\$0	NA	NA
Option 1	8:00-9:05 am	5:30-6:00 pm	65 minutes	141 (+28)	\$3.2m	134 (+21)	\$2.4m
Option 2	7:45-9:05 am	5:30-6:00 pm	80 minutes	122 (+9)	\$1.0m	131 (+18)	\$2.1m
Option 3	8:00-9:35 am	6:00-6:30 pm	95 minutes	113 (-)	\$0	131 (+18)	\$2.1m

Average cost per route is approximately \$115,000 per route (current year).



Option Implications

- **Option 1** (8:00am/8:30am/9:05am starts in a 3-tier model and 8:00am/9:05am starts for a 2-tier model)
 - 19-25% increase in number of buses and drivers needed (134 routes to 141 routes needed)
- **Option 2** (7:45am/8:25am/9:05am starts in a 3-tier model and 7:45am/9:05am starts in a 2-tier)
 - 8% increase in number of buses and drivers needed (122 to 134 routes needed)
- **Option 3** (8:00am/8:45am/9:35am starts in a 3-tier model and 8:00am/9:35am starts in a 2-tier model)
 - No increase in number of buses and drivers needed (matches current 113 routes needed in 3-tier model)
 - Shifts high school start of 9:35am and end times to 4:35/4:40pm

Same presentation was given at last board meeting. Board has asked team to explore Option 3 in more detail. What would it look like if we inverted high school and middle school schedules, with high school starting earlier and middle school starting later?

Question: Going back to how this discussion started – is it just with how early middle school is starting?

Dave: That was a concern, that kids were outside at 7am.

Question: Do you know the required minutes of instruction per grade level?

Dr. Gile: Elementary is 6.5 hours, middle and high school are 7 hours. Can get clarification on precise minutes.

Dr Gile: About 7 years ago district engaged in a bell time study. Research about older kids needing sleep motivated parents to want to move the high school times later. That is when switch was made.

Hourly rate for bus drivers will go up next year. Fuel is another big variable with that number. We are exploring some electric busses right now. Pausing to make sure the grants are going to materialize to actually buy them.

Comment: It's important to keep our bus drivers paid well. Can we keep them as part time and pay them what they deserve?

Dave mentioned COVID and how post-COVID numbers of people driving have been lower.

Comment: Re feedback from Beattie community. Being in close proximity to Rocky, it's very congested. I am curious about the kind of collaboration has been done with the city.

Dave: I know those meetings are happening. There is a desire to partner with the city; we have tried it in the past and are exploring it again.

Comment: Boundary changes are coming. Any changes that happen now, are we going to find ourselves here again?

Dave: Any time we change a boundary or a school we need to take a look at that.

Comment: Opportunity cost piece – what is the opportunity loss that occurs if students are getting out later, etc.?

Dave: Those are the conversations that need to happen.

Q: Is that being discussed with the board?

Dave: They want facts so they can make good decisions.

Question: So there is no scenario here where the high schools start before 8?

Dave: Option 3 which is what we talked about would have 8am start time as the earliest time. We need to model through the data.

Comment: Elementary school parents are responsible for getting their students to school, which can conflict with work start times; is equity being talked about?

Dave: There is a lot of feedback that should be given.

Questions and concerns shared about the various scheduling options.

Comment: Hoping there is discussion about boundaries and bussing too.

Dave: There is a lot to look at.

Chair Elect Nominations

Taylor accepted nominations for Chair Elect position, to be voted on at next meeting.

Karrie Grama-Hatfield, Tory Pappas, Taylor Unwin nominated or volunteered.

Closing remarks by Taylor.

Meeting ended at 8:56pm

Prepared by Karrie Grama-Hatfield

DAB Secretary