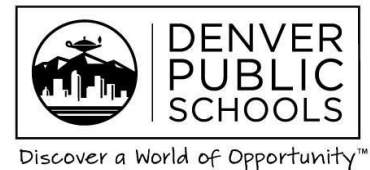


CSC Meeting Minutes

Denver Center for International Studies
DCIS
574 West 6th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204



Committee Members: (Please see the CSC meeting sign-in sheet for the attendee list)

2015-16

Date: 8 March 2016

Time: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Meeting Location: Melanie Grant Travel Center, Room #104

DCIS Mission Statement

Denver Center for International Studies prepares students for college by developing multilingual, interculturally competent citizens who are actively involved in our rapidly changing world.

Committee Members: (Please see the CSC meeting sign-in sheet for the attendee list)

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Caroline Kerswill (teacher): caroline_kerswill@dpsk12.org
- Omar Flores (student): omarfrak@gmail.com
- Jason Sand (Chair/parent) jasonpsand@gmail.com
- Tanya Tribelhorn (parent) tribelhorns@comcast.net
- Vivian Masket (parent) vivian_masket@dpsk12.org
- Theresa McCorquodale (principal) theresa_mccorquodale@dpsk12.org
- Eli Masket (student)
- Camilla Green (student)
- Melanie Grant (community member)
- Adam Reiter (teacher) adam_reiter@dpsk12.org
- Karen Herbert (parent) herbks@gmail.com

Committee Members not in Attendance:

- Jane Lineman (staff): jane_lineman@dpsk12.org
- Sonia Burns (teacher): sonia_burns@dpsk12.org

Guests:

- Anna Krutsinger (student)
- Angelica Cerna (student)
- Lori Premer (Choice Office representative)
- Victoria Valladares (student)

DCIS Mission Statement

Denver Center for International Studies prepares students for college by developing multilingual, interculturally competent citizens who are actively involved in our rapidly changing world.

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Agenda

4:30 pm Call to order, welcome

4:35-4:40 pm Agenda & action items (previous meeting) review

- School Board of Education Letter
 - Revise the draft with above considerations (Karen)
 - Share data related to enrollment numbers (Theresa)
- Course Requirements and College Impact
 - Updates from counselors re: 10 schools re: waivers for advanced proficiency
- Bell Schedule
 - Update re: scheduling committees bell schedule changes
- Fundraising re: Future Vision
 - CSC Chair will reach out to a contact re: grant options (Jason)
 - CSC member to reach out to contacts at DU re: grant options (Vivian)
- Sharing of attendance/discipline data
- Gathering Feedback
 - Town Hall updates
 - Lunch updates
- Items for review/consensus
 - Determine what courses will need to be restructured to sustain our scheduling needs

4:40-5:00 pm Public input

- Student Council Representative voiced concerns about school -wide budget cuts
 - Want to have more voice about these issues
 - Feels like there is a big shift to the Common Core classes
 - Feels like the school is getting further away from the mission
- Student Voice Forum is upcoming for students to discuss issues
- Admin wants to find solutions to infuse Common Core with DCIS values/mission
 - Possibly more staff development time/professional development
 - Some changes that students perceive are coming are not all for certain
- Letters from students from Italian classes as testimonials to support keeping the language at DCIS

Discussion:- **Guest from Choice Office**

- Denver Public Schools is a district of choice for all students
 - Schools are moving away from entrance requirements
 - Choice System is equitable and fluid (changes constantly to reality of family and schools)
 - System has been implemented for five years now
 - Allows for specific school models to exist that work for some students but not all
- There are a growing number of 6-12 schools where students roll from middle to high school like DCIS
- There are some “qualification schools” none of which are NOT charter schools
 - DSA, Kunsmiller, HGT programs
 - Schools go through the qualification process, and then they go to their wait-list/lottery
- If DCIS went to the Choice Office with a proposal to become a “qualification school,” the DPS Board would question equity
- DCIS and all schools in DPS set forward priorities for choice to the Choice Office
 - Geographic location, feeder school, (others listed)
- DPS has a legal obligation to seat students that live in the DPS boundary
 - Choice algorithm is used to optimize school choice from the school’s perspective and the student’s perspectives to match students to the appropriate school
 - Match rate for students on number one choices for schools has been very high this year
 - Choice Office has improved on figuring out the seat offerings with consideration for attrition - this is helping to eliminate movement after students are placed
- DPS population of students is declining
 - Overbooking schools in seats at schools to account for attrition
- Next steps in the process to change the school’s status would be to present a compelling argument to DPS leaders
 - Choice process for DCIS for next year is already set
 - How can we eliminate losing students later in the school year so that it will not affect the budget?
- Recommendations of the priority list that the school has put forward for entrance
 - Only allow students from Fairmont or other students who put DCIS as their number one school (incoming 6th and 9th graders)
 - If students choose DCIS as second, then the students go through the lottery
 - A different argument for the future is discussing entrance system for students to go through a qualification process
- March 21st is second round of school choice forms
 - Students are allowed to go through the choice form process again and are added to the bottom of the list

- **Staff/Parent input:**

- DCIS used to have an application/interview process in place and since it was taken away, the enrollment and culture of the school has changed
- Losing students from the school who have interest in the school because there is no format for them to demonstrate their interest in choosing DCIS
- The wait list process can be disappointing when the priorities of the schools are put forward and take seats of students who are choosing their priority schools
- It has been shared that perhaps the priorities that the school has set forward take precedent and take up seats before students who truly are making DCIS their first choice
- After priorities are met, the lottery goes to all the students in the district
 - It is perceived that the students' choices are not prioritized, the lottery number is what organizes the students
- School just wants to be able to mitigate the students coming in or out that drastically impact the budget
- Can the school change the cut off date to August, before school starts so that the school can accommodate for the schedule/budgeting
 - Choice Office is interested in knowing from school what their preferences are for cut off dates

- **Scheduling/Budget/Enrollment issue:**
 - Students who are on the waiting list who have ranked DCIS as first choice are not getting seats in the school before students who have ranked it second choice
 - When the students are pulled off the waiting list, they are not coming to the school and it makes an impact on the pay-per-student that the school receives
- Bell Schedule
 - Two schedules are set that have consistent color days, the difference is when lunch is situated (either two classes after lunch, or one class after lunch)
 - One schedule has lunch at 11:05, one schedule has lunch at 12:40
 - *add link to schedule
 - Advisors were asked to have students vote and give input on lunch options
 - Parent survey on the school app to give feedback on the two options
- Fundraising
 - Contact at DU has been made for fundraising help
 - Associate Dean at DU is welcome to meet at the end of March/April about partnering and helping out with fundraising
 - Director of Master's Program with interest in helping from a previous fundraising class
 - Invite funders to the school for student-led tours to share the school's story
 - Could lead to other possible connections in academics, clubs, philanthropy, partnerships
- Town Hall Feedback *see website for Theresa's powerpoint for further details
 - Shared with the community the current trends in enrollment, per revenue and reserves and the impact on DCIS
 - Shared priorities and budgetary constraints of the school with the community
 - Provided suggestions for the recommended cuts
 - Took suggestions from community

- Other suggestions from the CSC:
 - Creating a language “wheel” for middle school students (students survey 4 languages before they have to choose)
 - Make upper level languages electives
- Bring protocol with these ideas to the staff as well before the CSC makes the recommendation
- Attendance/Discipline Data
 - Distributed to the CSC
 - See handouts to review

6:25-6:30 pm Agenda Setting & Action Item Review

- Innovation School Status - What are the benefits? What is the process? (Theresa)
- Updates from counselors re: college acceptance of waivers to upper level languages, math and english (Theresa)
- Reach out to IS re: the “qualification status” of our school for future years (students/Student Council)
- School Board Letter re: School of Choice request - perhaps changing the request, or changing the cut off date (Karen and Vivian)
- Add structure to the discussion around budget priorities at DCIS so that the CSC can make a strong recommendation for this before the end of the school year (Karen) Give us a deadline (Theresa)
- Present at staff meeting the recommendations made by CSC/take other ideas from the staff (Present to Staff Meeting in April- Adam, Caroline)
- Finding parents/staff/students for the next year for the CSC

Important Calendar Items:

- Next meeting will be April 21 at 4:30

6:30 pm Conclusion and Depart

NOTE: All agendas are posted publically in a timely fashion on school’s website and/or in a highly visible area in the building.