



State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education

## **SACPIE Quarterly Meeting**

### **May 6, 2025**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jess Welch, Roxanne Aviles, Liz Wilson, Michelle Zeles-Hahn, Kimberly Chapman, Kate Garvin, Sara Hanselin, Jamita Horton, Beth Donahue, Nathan Hickman, Brooke Cote, Sena Harjo, Sherrell Lang, Ami Prichard, Jenny Lerner, Mary McNeill, Rashida Banerjee

**Guests:** Kathy Plomer, Darcy Hutchins, Jes Stroope, Yazmine Patino, Lisa Medler, Jamie Madigan

#### **9:35 Welcome and Business**

Jess Welch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Liz Wilson motioned to approve February minutes. Seconded. All in favor. February minutes approved.

Darcy Hutchins provided a vacancy update. Kathy Plomer is waiting for approval. The CD6 Parent Representative has been interviewed and will be moved forward. There is a CD7 parent representative vacancy. SACPIE is also missing a Health and Wellness Representative for a Statewide Nonprofit Organization. For this position, SACPIE members stated their preference to lean towards mental health. There is also a vacancy for a person from a Statewide Organization Representing School Counselors and a new CASE Representative. Darcy Hutchins noted that most current SACPIE members represent the metro area. Therefore, representatives from outside the metro area are preferred. If members have someone in mind to fill any of these vacancies, Darcy asked that they connect with her. The application can be found on the SACPIE website and Darcy will include the list of vacancies in the follow-up email to members.

Darcy Hutchins also announced that the one-pager is now available on the SACPIE website in English and Spanish and will also be sent out.

Lastly, Darcy Hutchins reminded SACPIE members to submit mileage reimbursements. Members can reach out to Yazmine Patino for next steps. Darcy noted that reimbursement requests can be submitted up to 2 months post travel without it being taxed, but after the 2-month deadline, the reimbursement will be taxed.

#### **9:45 Get to Know SACPIE Members**

Members participated in a welcome activity.

#### **9:55 Get to Know SACPIE's New State Board of Education Liaisons**

Jess Welch announced that there are two new state board liaisons, Kathy Plomer and Sherri Wright, the latter was unable to attend today's meeting. Darcy Hutchins shared that the liaisons would have a standing agenda item at the SACPIE meetings to share updates. Kathy Plomer introduced herself to the SACPIE members in attendance.

### **10:05 Accountability Bill Update**

Jess Welch introduced Lisa Medler, who provided an update on the accountability bill. The presentation slides include a timeline of the policy development structures and state that the bill passed yesterday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and is heading to the Governor for signature. The main sections of the accountability bill include state assessments, framework adjustments by 2027, frameworks – PWR indicator, public reporting that includes a study on a single coherent state dashboard, insufficient state data (ISD), continuous improvement including changes to the accountability clock, and areas for further study including formalizing the accountability work group, focusing on accountability for small systems, and updating the state assessments.

Lisa Medler shared that the team did try to include some technical fixes into the bill, but this work did not get adopted. Lisa shared if there is a chance for cleanup in the future, this will be an area where CDE would seek SACPIE feedback. Darcy Hutchins shared that she's received questions on the budget piece but doesn't have much to share.

At the end of the presentation, Lisa Medler asked the group if they had any clarification questions, any areas of particular interest, or noticed areas that are missing and may warrant future discussion.

For the framework adjustments, migrant students are not counted out separately as a student group but can be followed up on for the public reporting. For the Continuous Improvement changes, Lisa Medler noted that there is no additional funding provided and CDE will not have additional staff for this work. Kim Chapman asked, given the lack of funding, what the priorities will be. Lisa Medler asked SACPIE members to share what they believed should be the priorities. Kim Chapman shared she would prioritize educating the districts on the resources the state provides and has available. Mary McNeill suggested hosting a retreat for teachers, similar to the parent-to-parent retreats. Dr. Jamila Horton suggested administration teams also be included. Roxanne Aviles shared that this should be coming from CDE and not only CASB. Liz Wilson shared that there is also a disconnect between the SACs that are doing the work and the district-level administrators; therefore, resources should be shared with and coming from those doing the work. Ami Prichard shared that there is a distinction between those that don't know about the resources and those that are not sharing the resources. Therefore, Ami directing these resources towards parents in small snippets with ideas on how they can encourage their districts to adopt these practices if they haven't. For the state assessments, Kim Chapman asked if higher education staff are being utilized. Lisa Medler shared that some staff in higher education are utilized in internal evaluation work, but not with state assessments. Rashida Banerjee shared that at her university, students are encouraged to work with organizations and often do for their dissertations.

Liz Wilson shared that working with rural schools may also be helpful. Kate asked Lisa Medler what she envisions next steps can be for SACPIE to which Lisa responded with developing bright spots, providing feedback on transparency and public reporting, and being open to questions.

Jess Welch connected everyone's thoughts with SACPIE's previously discussed prioritization of relationships over resources. She also mentioned that the power of the committee is thinking about the relationships that aren't being leveraged.

Ami Prichard then asked how students that are considered "super seniors" are looked at and asked if

districts would be incentivized to have full programs for non-traditional students. Per Lisa Medler, CDE does report on graduation levels at 4, 5, 6, and 7 years. There are also separate frameworks for AECs and tailored measures that AECs can choose. Mary McNeill asked about transitional programs. Lisa Medler shared that performance frameworks are geared towards schools and districts; therefore, transitional programs would be counted only when appropriate. Mary clarified that students are not getting much back from the accountability frameworks like the districts are and asked how schools and districts can be held accountable to provide these services. Beth Donahue shared that, from an accountability standpoint, the office of Special Education does consider transitional programs. Mary added that there can still be more support in this area. Lisa Medler then added that to be counted, all students will be pulled in when CDE has access to test scores. For IEP students, the definition is being expanded.

SACPIE also shared their concerns on the use of acronyms, including “LEAs”, without explanation.

At the end of the discussion, Lisa Medler added that any additional thoughts can be shared with Darcy Hutchins.

### **10:57 Break**

### **11:15 Debrief SACPIE’s 24-25 School Year**

Jess Welch brought SACPIE members back from the break and introduced the debrief activity. Members were asked to look back at the SACPIE meetings held this year and the discussions had. In August, members collaborated to select a focus for the year, they set goals through the “100-day challenge” and reviewed the plan for FSCP month – November. In November, CDE presented on chronic absenteeism, and members heard from Rebecca Winthrop, who is the author of a new book on student engagement. In February, CDE presented on SAC and DAC resources and members brainstormed Promising Partnership Practices and worked on developing recruitment and onboarding practices.

Jess Welch asked SACPIE members, in small groups of three, to think about the structure, content, and activities used for member feedback throughout the last year. Members were also asked to discuss what should be kept, abandoned, or added for next year’s meeting keeping in mind the SACPIE mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities. Members were asked to take notes during their small group discussions.

After small group discussions, Jess Welch led the group through a share-out activity.

For the “Keep” category, Roxanne Aviles shared that her team would like to keep the CDE presentations. Other members seconded this. Roxanne also shared her team would like to keep the resources share-out time and also liked the inclusion of state board representation and Darcy’s updates. Mary McNeill shared her team would like to keep the food. They felt taken care of and that lends itself to good conversations. They would also like to keep the small groups. Sara Hanselin shared that she would like to keep the stakeholder feedback opportunities, and she appreciated being connected to the legislative work. She also loved closing loops, providing follow-up, and the frequent touchpoints between meetings. Roxanne also shared that she appreciates Darcy’s follow-up emails in between meetings. Jenny Lerner shared that her team would like to keep the resources from community partners.

For the “Adjust” category, Jenny Lerner shared that they would like to have more engaging icebreakers for those that are virtually attending the meetings. They also discussed adjusting the member resources time to be more intentional. Generally, the online team suggested rearranging topics/agenda items to ensure intentionality. Darcy Hutchins shared that In the past, there used to be a SACPIE spotlight for members to share what’s going on at their schools or organizations. This may fit into what Jenny shared.

Sara Hanselin asked that opportunities to incorporate pre-work or pre-engagement opportunities be added to allow team members to come into meetings more prepared or more informed. Mary McNeill's team added that members be provided with foundational information ahead of time to provide context for the presentations. The team would also like to adjust the way post presentation communication or follow-up is provided since often members don't know what's next or what the ask was. Roxanne Aviles's team suggested adjusting the 100-day challenge to be more group focused rather than individual. Additionally, adding more time to discuss the challenge during meetings. Jess Welch added that based on the meeting schedule, 100 days may not fit, so she suggested adjusting the challenge to yearly challenge or a two-meeting challenge. Kim Chapman suggested adding themes to each meeting (budgets, etc.) Jess Welch added that the themes could provide guidelines for the meetings. Darcy Hutchins reminded SACPIE members that the meetings would need to be flexible.

For the "Abandon" category, only Mary McNeill's team shared that they hope to abandon Cherry Creek.

For the "Add" category, Jenny Lerner seconded the keeping of Darcy's updates but asked that the team add CDE updates. Roxanne Aviles shared that a barrier for meeting the 100-day challenge was not having a list of contacts per congressional district. Her team shared they attempted to make their own at the superintendent level or within DAC. A list would allow for more success in sharing information. She also added that additional presentations from the Exceptional Students Unit, participation in the CASBE sessions, and a superintendent panel at one of the meetings would be helpful. Lastly, Mary McNeill added that the key takeaways and action items be clear on the notes and asked that all meetings start with a follow-up report. Mary also posed the question, "How do we engage more early childhood topics?"

For "General Reflections", Kim Chapman shared that bringing in people from different districts, possibly two districts for each SACPIE meeting, may be advantageous so they can be present, see what SACPIE does, and engage in the conversation. Liz Wilson added that she now has a greater understanding of how complex the needs are in different congressional districts and microclimates. Therefore, she would like to suggest adding a section to learn something about different congressional districts or microclimates, such as common issues, students served, rural vs urban, etc. She also added it could be a great way to find out what is different/similar and draw people in. It can also build relationships and influence people to follow requirements around SACs/DACs. Jess Welch added that this could be a Professional Development training for SACPIE members, like a "Get to Know the State of Colorado" in ways related to SACPIE.

Jess Welch then summarized the discussion. Based on the summary, SACPIE members would still like to start the year with a consensus setting activity to set up structures for subsequent meetings. They would like to start the year with a group understanding of who is in SACPIE, including the roles of those in SACPIE, their organization information, and district information for parent representatives. There is also a lot to think about with adding and adjusting. SACPIE members do enjoy CDE presentations, but they would like to add better feedback loops and would like to know how their feedback was or wasn't used. Lastly, SACPIE members liked the opportunity to learn, connect, and have meaningful conversations with each other.

## **12:15 Lunch Break**

### **1:00 Office of FSCP Update/Promising Partnership Practices**

Darcy Hutchins provided Office of Family, School, and Community Partnership updates. For State-level leadership updates, Darcy shared the core competencies for State Education Agency employees. The National Association for Family, School and Community engagement has a set of core competencies that

the FSCP team would like to elevate. The goal is to increase capacity and shift mindsets, hence the core competencies for employees. They have been shared with GO team, including Beth Donahue and Nathan Hickman, and will be shared with the community of practice. Darcy will write a brief introduction and will share with SACPIE members before deciding where they can live. Additionally, FSCP and SACPIE are now written into the CDE Strategic Plan within increasing student engagement, which Darcy is overseeing. Darcy is also working on making sure FSCP is embedded in other three priority areas. Darcy will share more during the August SACPIE meeting.

For external work updates, Darcy shared that last week on Thursday and Friday the team held their annual district retreat. Nathan Hickman shared his thoughts on the retreat. Convening at district level and people within various roles looking to elevate FSCP work. The team appreciated the various perspectives and the diverse group. There were 91 attendees from 26 districts. There was also a scavenger hunt. Jamie Madigan shared that it was amazing to see so many people from across Colorado championing FSCP work. Jess Stroope shared there were new districts, too.

Additionally, Darcy shared that the Year-at-a-Glance will be posted in early July.

For the Trail Maps piece, Darcy had previously shared the trail map for schools. At the Think Tank, Jess Stroope, Jamie Madigan, and Darcy received feedback from districts. Districts wanted more reproducibles and resources instead of a trail map. This is currently a work in progress as the CDE FSCP Team will continue to add more research-based resources. There is also a page for district level leadership, which was unveiled last week.

Liz Wilson asked as an average person in a district, how this is relevant or significant. Darcy shared that the categories are best practices on what district level leadership can look like.

For SACPIE updates, Darcy shared that the team has asked for SACPIE feedback for the one-pager shared during the February meeting, which is linked on the SACPIE page in English and Spanish. SACPIE also previously discussed putting together an onboarding course and materials for new members, which now live in Moodle. Jess will add all SACPIE members to the course. The course includes a welcome video, the one-pager, a section about what to expect at SACPIE meetings, required and recommended readings, and a video explaining what's next. Darcy will set up an initial meeting with new members, who will be assigned to a current SACPIE member. Darcy will also add the new member(s) to calendar invites and the email listserv. The course will not be public and will be specific to SACPIE members. Jess will also add Kathy Plomer and Sherrie Wright. Kate Garvin asked if the recorded videos can be public facing for recruitment. Darcy stated that there currently isn't a public-facing video as those in the course are specific to SACPIE members, but she can create one. Kate shared that the one-pager should suffice.

Darcy then reviewed the Promising Partnership Practices. Although there wasn't enough time to review them during this meeting, SACPIE members can review the Google Sheet used in February for brainstorming. Jess shared that there is only one practice submitted from New American School in Aurora. SACPIE members were asked to follow-up on the brainstormed ideas. Ami Prichard asked for a "click here" graphic that can be added to a newsletter or social media post. Jess Stroope will work on this. Liz Wilson suggested members also share the submission form via Linked In. Kathy will share the form at the upcoming board meeting.

Lastly, Darcy shared that the Communications Team has reached out asking for SACPIE's feedback on the new website updates. They have a mockup of what the new website would look like, but Darcy has asked them to put together a recording of what the new website looks like and a series of questions for feedback. Darcy will send the information in a follow-up email. The Communications Team is hoping to



get feedback by Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Darcy asked SACPIE members to provide their feedback to her and she will share it with Communications. Lastly, Darcy added that she has asked the Communications Team to provide a follow-up on how the feedback provided was or wasn't used.

### **1:30 Member Resource Sharing**

Sarah Hen provided updated from the Colorado Department of Human Services. The National School Lunch Program is well on its way. The Behavioral Health Summit is taking place on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Discusses Colorado Health Action Plan. Open to everyone. The BHA was recently founded and is trying to build what the state is doing to address health issues. Parts of the plan have been inherited but they would like to get stakeholder feedback to rewrite the plan. There is an opportunity for CDE to join as the department is attempting to collaborate with directors. There is a call on Wednesday at 8am and CDE is welcome to join to provide updates.

Kate Garvin shared information about the Rocky Mountain Family Engagement Collective. They have extra NAFSCE memberships if anyone is interested in a free membership. They are also running a reframing academy with NAFSCE that will start in the summer. There will be online modules to watch, and the community will come together virtually for discussions. They will discuss how to communicate why family engagement matters and how it can be integrated into various places with school and district work. Darcy shared that the dialogue is worth the time commitment. They are trying to recruit district and family leaders to deepen their understanding of the parent partnership piece. Darcy shared that there is a misconception of what FSCP is and added that this would be helpful in reframing that. The academy is free and Kate will share the registration information for Darcy's email. Liz Wilson asked if this relates to everyone, not just some families, to which Darcy and Kate responded with yes. Kate also shared information on the new echo series happening at the beginning of the school year, which is like Zoom and is used to train teachers on how to make the application interactive. The first 40 educators that sign up will receive a \$200 stipend and continuing education hours through CDE. The training includes six virtual training sessions that will be held over the course of three weeks in the fall. The training is geared towards classroom teachers. However, others are welcome. Lastly, Kate shared that their family programs will start to launch next school year in partnership with FLTI. They will be developing a learning lab for parents, which will be a six-week course on the why for parent engagement and their role in school. There will also be a session for multilingual families.

Liz Wilson asked Kate how much of the information she's shared is already distributed on social media platforms. Kate shared that the information is on Linked In, and they are planning to launch the information on Facebook to advertise to families. However, Kate recognizes that this is champion work and will be shared via word of mouth and conversations. They have tried paying for advertisements, but nothing works better when sharing information one-on-one. She is open to ideas, though. Liz shared that she has learned that it makes it easier to do one-on-one outreach if there is something she can share online.

Ami Prichard shared that the National PTA has a toolkit that can be shared. Roxanne Aviles added that this would be helpful to share with new teachers.

Beth Donahue shared that the special advisory work is winding down. She also shared information about the Peek Parent Center, which is a federally funded center supporting students with disabilities and their families. They have a lot of resources that can be shared. They are also hosting a webinar tomorrow. Beth will share the link with Darcy, but it will also be recorded.

Liz Wilson reminded everyone that it's a school board election year, which should stay on everyone's radar given how relationships may impact work.

Ami Prichard shared that the Colorado PTA is reviewing ballot initiatives and will be collecting signatures. She noted that these initiatives may be deceptive based on the written language used. However, there will have a clearinghouse on positions for each initiative by June for parents to review.

Lastly, Jess Welch reminded members that SACPIE is a politically neutral group.

#### **1:40 Wrap-Up**

Jess Welch shared the upcoming meeting dates – August 26, 2025, November 18, 2025, and February 10, 2026. Members should have calendar invites for August and November dates. Darcy will share calendar invite for the February date. Jess Welch asked SACPIE members to share their thoughts on the Colorado Gives Foundation and Daniel's Fund spaces for the August meeting. Members shared they prefer the Colorado Gives Foundation. Yazmine Patino will reserve the space for the August and November meetings. Jess Welch also reminded members to RSVP.

#### **1:51 pm Adjourn**