

**DCSD District Accountability Committee
Membership Recommendations
January 25, 2022**

Individuals Recommended to Fill Current Vacancies

The District Accountability Committee (DAC) recommends membership for two (2) Parent Representatives. Individuals Recommended to Fill Vacancies.

Parent Representative
Julie Gooden
Highlands Ranch High School Feeder Area
First Term: January 2022-June 2023

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and what skills or abilities you can bring to the District Accountability Committee and the school district.

- I was born in Texas and moved to Highlands Ranch in 1990 with my family. Midway through my 8th-grade year, I began school at Highlands Ranch Junior/Senior High School. There, I met my husband of 23 years. After Highlands Ranch, I went to CSU and graduated in 3 years with a Bachelors's degree in Psychology and then pursued graduate work in Marriage and Family Therapy. In 2001 when my first child was born, we decided I would stay home with her until we could successfully navigate the world with a child. Apparently, we never mastered this as I have been home ever since. This was partially due to two overseas work assignments to the Philippines in 2007-2010 and 2012-2013. We moved our first two children to Manila in 2007 and returned in 2010 with our son that was born there. Eager to continue broadening our family experiences as expatriates and to return our children to their beloved International School, my husband took another assignment to the Philippines in 2012. All the while we were gone, we kept our home in Lone Tree and since returning in 2013, have stayed in Douglas County where we have fostered many great relationships and have become involved within our community.

Statement of Interest: Please provide a statement of why you are interested in serving on the DCSD District Accountability Committee.

- My husband and I are alumni of HRHS, therefore have a lengthy history in the district. Currently, I have two students in the district (senior and 8th grade) along with a 2020 graduate. I have become increasingly active in the schools the last 3 years. Attending HRHS SAC meetings, serving as both a Community member and then a Parent Member and Chair of the Cresthill SAC. As of last week, I was also elected to the HRHS SAC as well. I strongly believe in relationships with our educators and working alongside them brings out the best in us all as we help navigate the complicated waters of educating children.

I am looking at ways to serve DCSD in a larger capacity which has led me to apply for a DAC position. Parent involvement and cooperation are needed to make sure our district is supported as well as our students. My passion is creating communities that work together and create a compromise all parties can live with. In addition to serving on SACs, I have been the President of our local swim team (Cook Creek Wahoos) for many years, bringing together swimmers from all over the area and creating a fun, welcoming, and healthy place for families to interact and support one another. Currently, I am one of

three admins of our high school and middle school parent Facebook groups. It hasn't been easy, but we have been able to keep our pages as sources of information and facts versus places for opinions and bickering. I mention this to let you know that compromise and respect are how we lead to keep our community positive and healthy. Having children that have been enrolled in an International School gives me a unique perspective on what it means to prepare our children for the greater world after high school. Many of my family members live here in Douglas County and will have children entering the district in the next 5 years which also keeps me invested in the county for the long term.

Parent Representative
Valerie Thompson
Legend High School Feeder Area
First Term: January 2022-June 2023

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and what skills or abilities you can bring to the District Accountability Committee and the school district.

- My family and I are new residents of Parker and I'm eager to contribute to our community. I hold a masters in health education and am currently working on my PhD in applied behavioral psychology with a focus in community health. More specifically my area of study and work focuses on community planning, collaborative action, and evaluation addressing community initiatives in topics like early literacy, college-readiness, youth violence prevention, and community health improvement plans.

Statement of Interest: Please provide a statement of why you are interested in serving on the DCSD District Accountability Committee.

- I hope to provide my professional skills, knowledge, and experiences as a parent to supporting and sustaining the values and good work of this district.

DAC Committee Alternate Representatives

The DAC recommends the following individuals be approved as alternates for membership should vacancies open during the 2021-2022 SY:

Parent Representative
Ashley Opfer
Ponderosa High School Feeder Area
First Term: TBD

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and what skills or abilities you can bring to the District Accountability Committee and the school district.

- I am a Douglas County resident, business owner, attorney, mediator and, most importantly, wife and mother of two beautiful boys enrolled in Douglas County schools. My undergraduate degree is in theatre and dance secondary education. I am passionate about public education and the law. I have extensive experience in logic driven problem solving, planning, and conflict resolution and I would love to make a difference in our school district using those skills.

Statement of Interest: Please provide a statement of why you are interested in serving on the DCSD District Accountability Committee.

- I have recently joined my children's school's SAC and will be serving as the DAC liaison to our SAC. I believe that our school district has had a rough year and a half due to the pandemic and the overall public climate of our country. I believe DCSD can not only survive, moving forward, but can thrive. I want to be a part of the solution and would like to help the schools, the board, parents, and the district as a whole come together in the best interests of the education of our children.

Parent Representative

Matthew Harris

Castle View High School Feeder Area

First Term: TBD

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and what skills or abilities you can bring to the District Accountability Committee and the school district.

- I'm a parent of two students in the district. I've spend half of my professional career in government accountability and have taught at the college level for over 15 years. I have PhD in Business. I have extensive experience in peer review audits and have authored several peer reviewed articles on government accountability.

Statement of Interest: Please provide a statement of why you are interested in serving on the DCSD District Accountability Committee.

- I have been wanting to become more involved with district activities. I believe it is important for parents and community members to be engaged in the daily operations of their school district. There are few, if any, institutions that will have a bigger impact on the development of our children. I'm looking to add my knowledge to the existing body of work, but would also like to learn more about district activities and to give back to our community.