

# **Long Range Planning Committee Membership Recommendations**

## **December 12, 2023**

### **Members Recommended for Renewal**

#### **West Planning Area**

Larry Mugler

Renewal Term: December 2023 - June 2026

Steven Franger

Renewal Term: December 2023 - June 2026

#### **North Planning Area**

Megan McDonald

Renewal Term: December 2023 - June 2026

### **Members Recommended to Fill Vacancies**

### **Voting Members**

#### **East Planning Area**

Chris Spyke

Term: December 2023 - June 2026

#### **North Planning Area**

Melissa Park

Term: December 2023 - June 2026

Robin Williams

Term: December 2023 – June 2026

#### **West Planning Area**

Gilbert Chavez

Term: December 2023 - June 2026

#### **Charter Representative**

Katie Van Kooten

Term: December 2023 - June 2026

Courtney Tucker

Term: December 2023 - June 2026

## **Non-voting Members**

Rex Corr, Ed.D., DCSD Staff

Term: December 2023 – June 2026

Matthew Ainley, Development Community/Construction Industry Expert

Term: December 2023 – June 2026

Aarav Varma, DCSD Student Representative

Term: December 2023 - June 2024

## **New Members - Statements of Interest and Qualifications**

### **Chris Spyke**

My kids are in the district and will be for the next 13yrs. I have a passion for CTE and education in general. I bring development, design and construction experience and am a local business leader. I would like to do what I can to help our schools, students, staff, and educators.

I've lived and worked in the county for 17 years and have experience in development, design, and construction. My qualifications include managing planning, entitlement, design, and construction within Douglas County. Specifically, I am well qualified to advise on cost, schedule and constructability.

### **Melissa Park**

I am currently serving as a Director of the Highlands Ranch Community Association and have decided not to re-run when my term ends in March 2024. I have been searching for where I would like to volunteer my time next. I was attending my child's school SAC meeting where someone was speaking about the Long-Range Planning Committee and it was exactly what I had been looking for. I think it is important to have individuals on this committee that have an open mind, can evaluate facts, and find compromise. Those are all the things that I excel in. As a longtime resident of Douglas County, I look forward to being a part of shaping the future of DCSD.

As a local Realtor for the past 18 years, I know first-hand the issues DCSD faces with growth and decline. I know the areas in need of schools and those where the demographic is ageing. I know what those seeking to move to Douglas County are looking for and can offer insight to community needs. Also, having served on the HRCA Board for the past 8 years, I know how to collaborate and work as a team to achieve goals. I look forward to working with and learning from the existing committee members and hope to be a positive addition to the group.

### **Robin Williams**

Adjusting for change in our district is a fascinating topic for me. I look forward to being able to research and learn more about the changes in the area that are anticipated and try to solve challenges as the population and needs of the district change. Have previously served on a school boundary committee, occupational history of forecasting and logistics.

### **Gilbert Chavez**

I have a lot of experience in range, planning for several different companies and have been very successful in doing so. I have an associate degree, bachelor's degree, and an MBA. I have operated at the highest levels in business, and in the military, in terms of projects that were specifically designed for focusing on long-range planning.

### **Katie Van Kooten**

As a graduate of DCSD (Douglas County High School), a resident of DCSD, and a parent of future DCSD students, I have vested interest in the methodical long range planning efforts of DCSD to ensure that balanced enrollment efforts are achieved, and that capital expenditures such as the renovation of existing facilities and building of new school facilities are well spent so that current and future DCSD students can maintain an exceptional learning experience.

My unique professional qualifications bode well for this volunteer position. Professionally, I have worked in the capacity of a Construction Manager as an Owner's Representative on behalf of 3 separate Denver-

Metro area K-12 School District's (27J Schools, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, & Cherry Creek Schools) managing and overseeing bond funded capital improvement projects such as the renovation and deferred maintenance of existing schools and construction of new school facilities. I currently serve as the Construction Manager for Cherry Creek Schools and maintain a particular skillset in regard to the knowledge of planning, development, construction, and maintenance of K-12 educational facilities.

### Courtney Tucker

I am a native of Douglas County, I feel strongly about growing and nurturing the kids in Douglas County especially now that I have two daughters who attend DC schools. My mom was a teacher, and my dad was on school board. Aside from my personal adolescent opinions on school, I always understood the importance of education, that feeling of learning new information, it is powerful feeling that all kids deserve. I want to ensure that education has the right impact and place in Douglas County for the future. I also feel very strongly that I will give back to the community that has given so much to me and my family.

I am Project Manager for a commercial General Contractor, the basis of my job is planning and communication. I am tasked with accurate planning of projects and budgets, then executing them. I enjoy looking down the horizon to what can happen, then planning accordingly. Planning is key to success, and I value the process and like to make it better each time. I like to involve all the stakeholders, communicate objectives, and then plan to use the information developed, the process should always respect the stakeholder and the objective.

### Rex Corr

I am seeking opportunities to contribute to District planning in new ways. I seek to provide perspective based on my relevant background and experience as a resident, parent, teacher/leader with 24 years in education; 16 years in DCSD. The next decade in Douglas County School District will involve critical conversations around population growth in some areas and decline in others. These conversations will require careful consideration and communication with those elected to make these difficult decisions. Service to the LRPC will benefit and broaden my understanding of the district. I hope to, in turn, benefit the conversations and decision-making of the committee.

In the last twelve years as a DCSD school administrator, I have:

- Planned and directed vision, programming, and operations for a neighborhood high school of 2200+ students (Castle View High School)
- Designed and coordinated fiscal management/stewardship of a \$14.5M annual site-based budget.
- Collaborated with District leadership, architects, and construction management in the design/realization of 28,000 square foot, \$16.3M construction addition (Castle View F-Pod) to expand capacity and enhance CTE programming opportunities.
- Created, planned, and directed mission/vision, programming, and operations for a new, central, Career & Technical Education (CTE) Campus (DCSD Legacy Campus) in alignment with the district's mission, vision, goals, and strategic initiatives.
- Organized all campus operations to include hiring and management of all personnel, facility management, financial resources, public and industry relationships, and coordination of effective instruction programming.
- Collaborated with district leadership, architects, and construction management in the Phase I design and realization of 60,000+ square foot, \$26.2M renovation of an existing museum

(Wildlife Experience building, Lincoln/Peoria), creating state-of-the-art CTE classroom/laboratory spaces.

- Managed the financial resources (District-Based Budget) of the campus by developing, administering, monitoring, and coordinating the campus budget, including the development and monitoring of all grants awarded to the campus.
- I have also served as a Community Board Member for the Advent Health Castle Rock Hospital Board (formerly Castle Rock Adventist Hospital) since January 2020

### Matthew Ainley

I have two children in DCSD schools, one at Rock Canyon and one at Rocky Heights. I have participated on school planning committees in the past. I enjoy the planning and strategy of anticipating the needs in the future. I am a civil engineer and contractor by trade with background in school design of elementary, middle, high school, and college campuses. I am familiar with population growth and planning for how to handle the demands/services that come with it.

### Aarav Varma

The Long-Range Planning Committee would allow me to grow on the existing plan/idea that I've been able to incorporate into my community. For example, to go off of this, one of the many things that I did was change legislation in my own state by testifying in support of the I Matter Bill to extend it. Many people applauded me for my age and for being willing to testify, because of that the I Matter program developed into 6 free mental health sessions for youth under 18 without parental consent. Hundreds of students have used this program and I felt like I was a leader at that moment. What I've wanted to do and my interest in serving on the LRPC is to incorporate an I Matter in schools and to create a community in-person center rather than an online one. With this, capital would be something on the floor to discuss, showing my use for wanting to join the Long-Range Planning Committee.

From the student perspective, there's so much to discuss and actually share about future plans for the BOE regarding facility usage and attendance. With this idea in mind, it'd help combat the school attendance barrier and the facility usage in schools to increase and grow in diversity. On top of that, what I've also been doing is collecting surveys on how we can better improve mental health services within the county to see not only how we can improve it from a youth perspective but as a whole community. I really believe that with the efforts of the LRPC and from a youth perspective while also understanding the adult perspective professionally, the committee, in my opinion, is a very professional stance on our county, and believe that this can be a really good fit for me. As part of the Youth Commission, one of the many issues we face is seeing if the land permits us to actually do the event and understanding what land zones/permits are and why there's a curfew, understanding these few key items would make me an ideal candidate for the LRPC.