

**Denver School of the Arts  
Collaborative School Committee  
December 4, 2023, 4:15 pm**

1. Welcome - meeting convened at 4:17 pm
  - a. Present - Aspen Burkett, Daniel Solomon, Melissa Murphy, John Aden, Deronn Turner, Eloise Cullen, Amy Ventura
2. DSA South Building Update
  - a. We are in the 1st phase of construction (out of 4 phases).
  - b. 12 academic classrooms and 9 arts spaces should be ready for the fall semester for high school.
  - c. The building will have a gender-neutral bathroom.
  - d. Conversations are ongoing with the City of Denver about using some of the space to house migrants.
  - e. Select classrooms will be moved over based on what is finished.
3. PSAT/NMSQT Testing Update
  - a. Current participation rate is at 95.93% based on the test in October.
  - b. Our numbers appear to be trending where we need to go to reach our goal (95% participation rate) as determined by the district.
  - c. Opt-out communication will go out in March.
  - d. Melissa and Seantele Holbrook prepared communication for parents and is ready for feedback. The language is below. The communication will be submitted to the district in January after revisions.
  - e. Proposed follow-up calls to those students/parents who have not opted out correctly.
  - f. There are also trainings with College Board.
4. Questions
  - a. Amy asked about classroom size for 9th graders
    - i. Staffing is dependent on the student population and budget.
  - b. Amy asked about building security
    - i. Aspen related our security protocol.
5. Staffing Update/Budget (closed session)
  - a. No minutes taken for this item.
6. Email Daniel/John/Aspen with agenda items if there are items you want to discuss
7. Adjourned at 4:45 pm

# DRAFT 12/4/2023 CRAFTED BY CSC Members

Some HS Parent thoughts on Testing:

We have likely all heard the positives & negative news around testing students. Here is some food for thought.

The state requires 95% of the student population to participate in the tests. This percent doesn't include the students that have completed the Opt Out process that the district has put in place. If we have less than 95% of student participation the state rating of DSA will suffer.

The state and district understand that there are reasons for opting students out of the tests. If you have questions about appropriate reasons for opting-out/ exempt from any of the upcoming standardized testing please contact school counselors and admin for assistance in making the decisions that are best for your student. Most importantly, If you do decide to opt-out, Please follow the Opt-out process asap.

*If you wish to exempt your student from testing, please log into [the Parent Portal](#), then click on See All Apps and choose the Assessment Opt-Out Form. Follow the directions in the form to exempt your student from testing. Please note that you will need to complete this form each school year, so if you opted-out your student last year and wish to do so again for this year, please complete the online form. Students who are opted-out of a test do not attend school on the testing day(s). **We request that you complete the opt-out form as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly for testing seats for exam days.***

These tests help families, students and counselors assist students in the course selection and post secondary selection process. The test scores help students access post secondary placements and scholarship opportunities.

How can you help your student prepare for the exams? Have a good sleep routine, eat a good dinner and breakfast before testing days, drink plenty of water the day before so students are hydrated. Have students complete the CollegeBoard registration and Bluebook practice test option that is provided by College Board via SchoolMessenger and Schoology. Mark testing dates on calendars and keep up with SchoolMessenger reminders via email and text the nights before exam dates for last minute reminders and information.