



The Student Centered Boardroom: Put The Kids At Your Table!



Durango 9-R
Board of
Education



District Demographics



4,319 Students
Preschool through 12th
Grade



900 Staff
2nd Largest Employer in
La Plata County



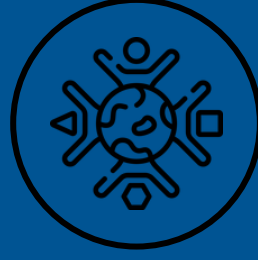
1,079 Square Miles
Covers a large geographic
area with in-town and rural
schools



11 Schools
7 Elementary Schools
2 Middle Schools
2 High Schools
1 K-8 Charter School



SW Colorado
Borders New Mexico
Agriculture/Mountains
Tourist destination
Semi-rural



Diversity
42% FRL
21% Hispanic/Latino
5% Native American



Part of the Team:

Students on the Board





In Their Words: What They Learned



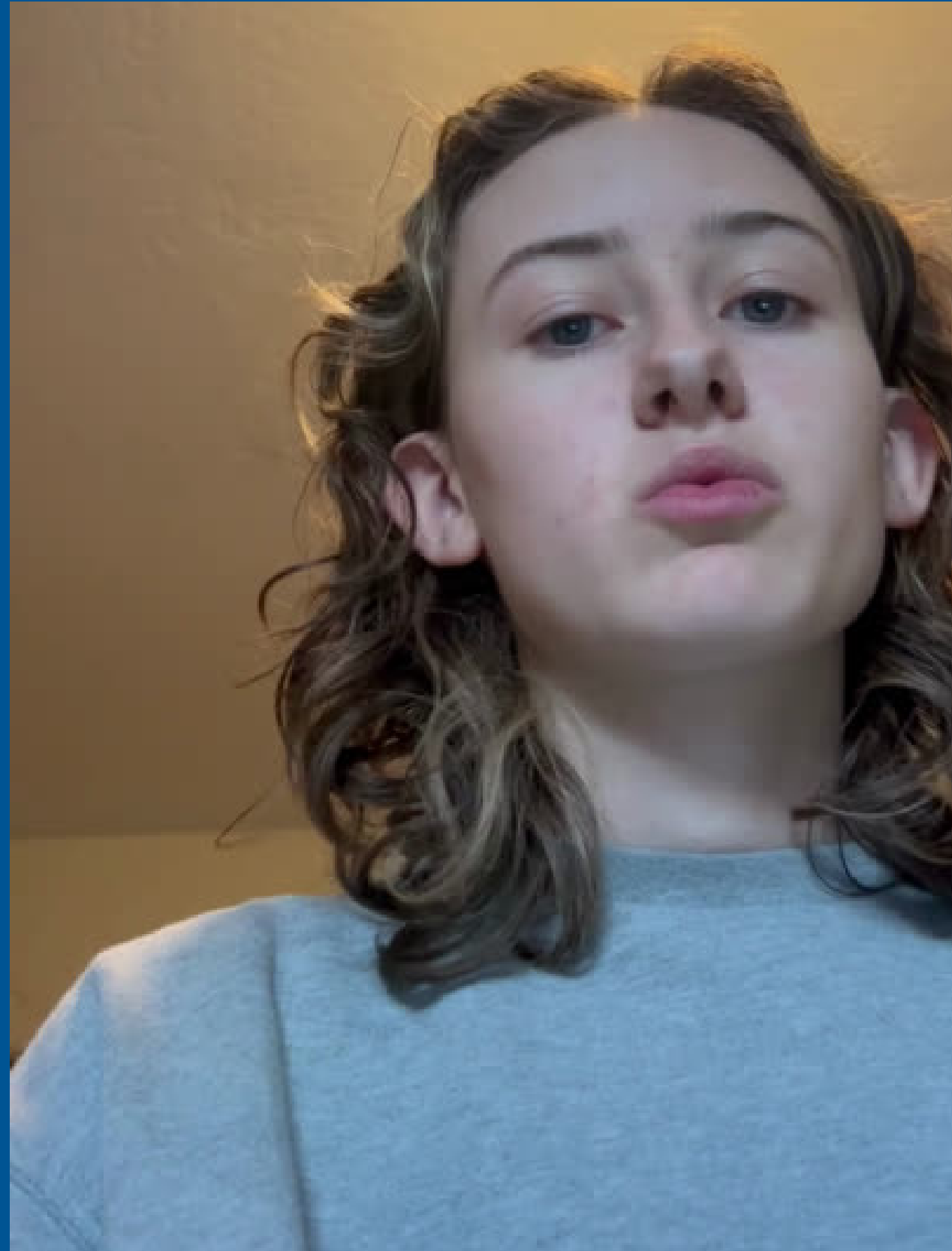
Photo: Durango Herald



Amiah Hanson
Student Board Member 2020-21 (served as a sophomore)
Student Board Member 2021-22 (served as a junior)



Hazel Seashore-Botha
Student Board Member 2022-23 (served as a junior)



Hadley Thompson
Student Board Member 2022-23 (served as a sophomore)



The Role of Student Board Members

THE WHO & WHAT

- Currently enrolled high school students grades 10-12
- Ex-officio students serve in a non-voting advisory role for a full school year





The Role of Student Board Members

THE WHY

- Provide Student Voice
- Share the Board's Mission
- Leadership Development





The Role of Student Board Members

THE HOW

Participate & Advise

- serve as a liaison between the Board and Student Body
- attend all meetings and work sessions
- provide real time input and perspective in meetings
- collect and share school-based feedback

Learn & Grow

- complete a student-led, solutions-based project
- attend conferences and events representing 9-R
- develop leadership skills





Turn and Talk



#1

How does your board interact with students?



#2

How does your board hear the student voice?

How it Works in Durango:

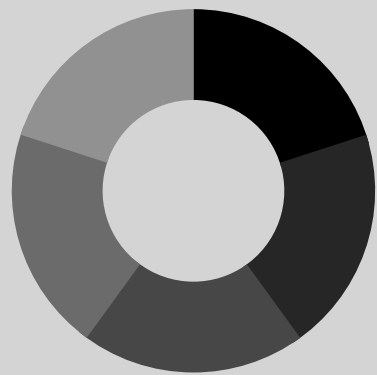
Our Student

Board Member Program

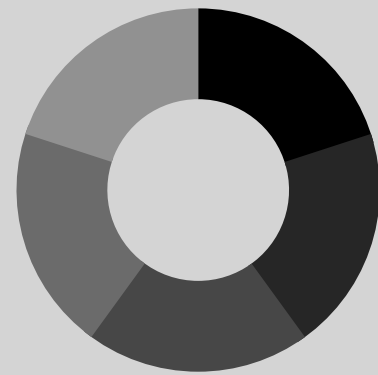




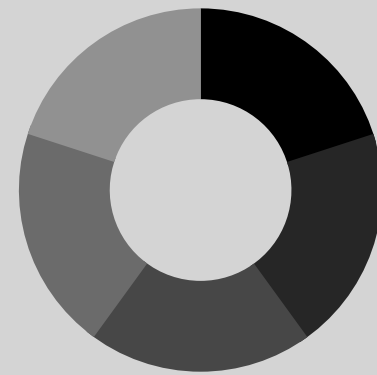
The Origin of Today's Program



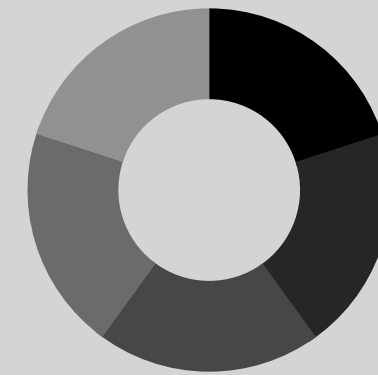
◆ **2012 Policy approved and the application/ interview process**



◆ **2012-2017 One Student Board member Selected each year. Ranges from 1-9 applicants**



◆ **2020 Board appoints a board member to be the student liaison. Student board member in Superintendent search**



◆ **2021- 2023 Board grows the program to accommodate 3-4 students. Student on-boarding program is developed**



Student Board Member Policy

Student Member of the School Board

A nonvoting student representative to the Board of Education will be selected in April by a vote of the school board. Student applications will be accepted in the month of March and will undergo an interview process by the Board. Once selected, the student will be seated and will serve a 12-month term commencing on July 1.

The student may participate in Board discussions of agenda items at regular meetings and work sessions. The student will express their thoughts and opinions on action items, but will not cast a formal vote. However, the student shall be excluded from attendance at executive sessions.

Specifics relative to qualifications, academic standing, reporting and responsibilities shall be set forth in regulations which accompany this policy.

The Board reserves the right to bar the participation of the student member if actions of the student member are unacceptable to the Board.

Adoption Date: December 11, 2012
Revised by the Superintendent: July 3, 2014
Reviewed by the Superintendent: June 27, 2023

Student Member of the School Board

File: JIBB-R
DISTRICT POLICY

Responsibilities

The student representative to the School Board will:

- Represent the student voice and perspective of ALL students enrolled in Durango School District 9-R to the School Board, Superintendent and leadership team.
- Actively solicit ideas and input from various student stakeholder groups within the school district.
- Consistently attend and participate in School Board meetings and appropriate discussions and work sessions.
- Communicate in a timely fashion with the Board when the student representative is not able to be present at meetings.
- Actively interact and communicate with various student stakeholder groups to help explain the roles and responsibilities of the Board.
- Actively interact with various student stakeholder groups to help communicate board policies and actions that impact student life in the school district.
- Represent themselves in a professional and positive manner to all stakeholders within 9-R (parents, community, school board, 9-R staff, etc.)
- Actively interact with various student stakeholder groups to help explain the roles and responsibilities of the Board.

File: JIBB
DISTRICT POLICY

Student representative will not be allowed to vote on matters coming before the School Board but will be encouraged to give their opinion and point of view to on any matters coming before them in a public forum (executive sessions are not included).

Sophomore (10th grade level).
In conjunction with 9-R administration, will annually develop an application and make these available to the Board Clerk no later than the end of the school year (applications no later than March 1st).
Must have completed applications and forward them to the Board Clerk no later than the end of the school year.
Must be a current student of Durango School District 9-R.
Must be a board meeting and may attend conferences with the Board (i.e., CASB A meeting).
Must be a board meeting and will serve a 1 year term beginning in July.





Student Board Member Recruitment



- Utilize current student members to “recruit”
- Communicate the opportunity throughout the schools
- Leverage the power of pizza!




Interview Day 2023

13 applicants!

Interview Process

- Current student board members weigh in on interview questions
- Interview in private, one student at a time
- Deliberate after interviews
- Select students: 2, 3, 4, all 13?


CANDIDATE: _____

Interview Questions for Ex-Officio Student School Board Candidates

1. What grade will you be in this coming school year?
2. Please give us two specific strategies you will use to reach out to and represent all students in Durango School District 9-R.
3. Tell us about your experiences in Durango School District 9-R that have helped shape your perspective and what you plan to do after high school.
4. If you were to identify one thing you believe may be an obstacle for students to achieve in our school district, what might that be?
5. Which Portrait of A Graduate skill or disposition do you feel you are strongest in and why?
6. Do you understand the time commitment for being a student board member and are will you be able to commit to that in addition to your studies and other activities?
7. Do you have any questions for us?



Managing the Student Board Member Program

Board Member Serves as Student Mentor

- formal orientation of students
- regular systematic communication

Provide Resources

- students receive books & reading materials to keep
- may use district resources and expertise for projects
- assist in networking and connections





Managing the Student Board Member Program

Mindful Inclusion

- students add value & are part of our team
- students interact with full board and administration
- students are introduced and included (in meetings, in the community and at events)



Making a difference:

Student Impact

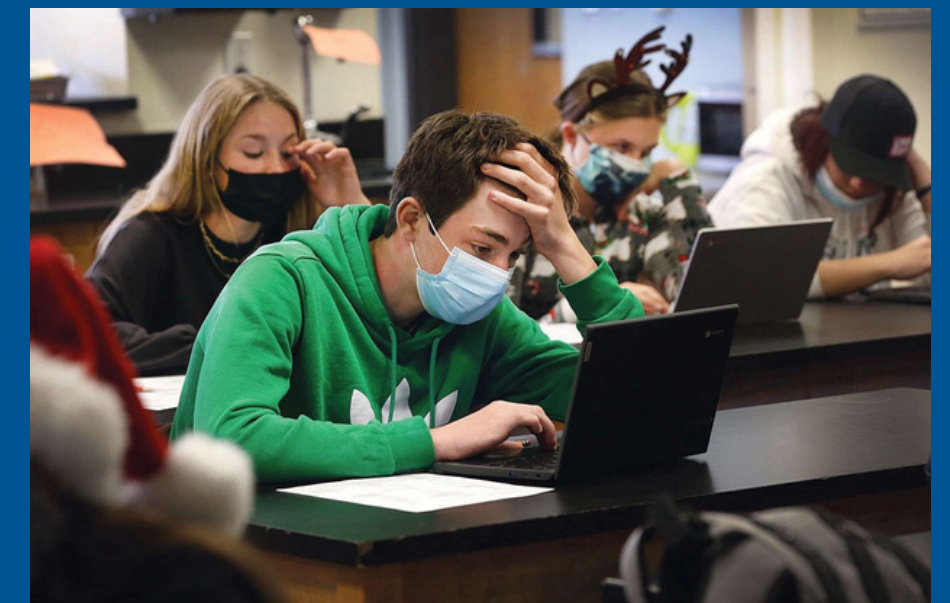
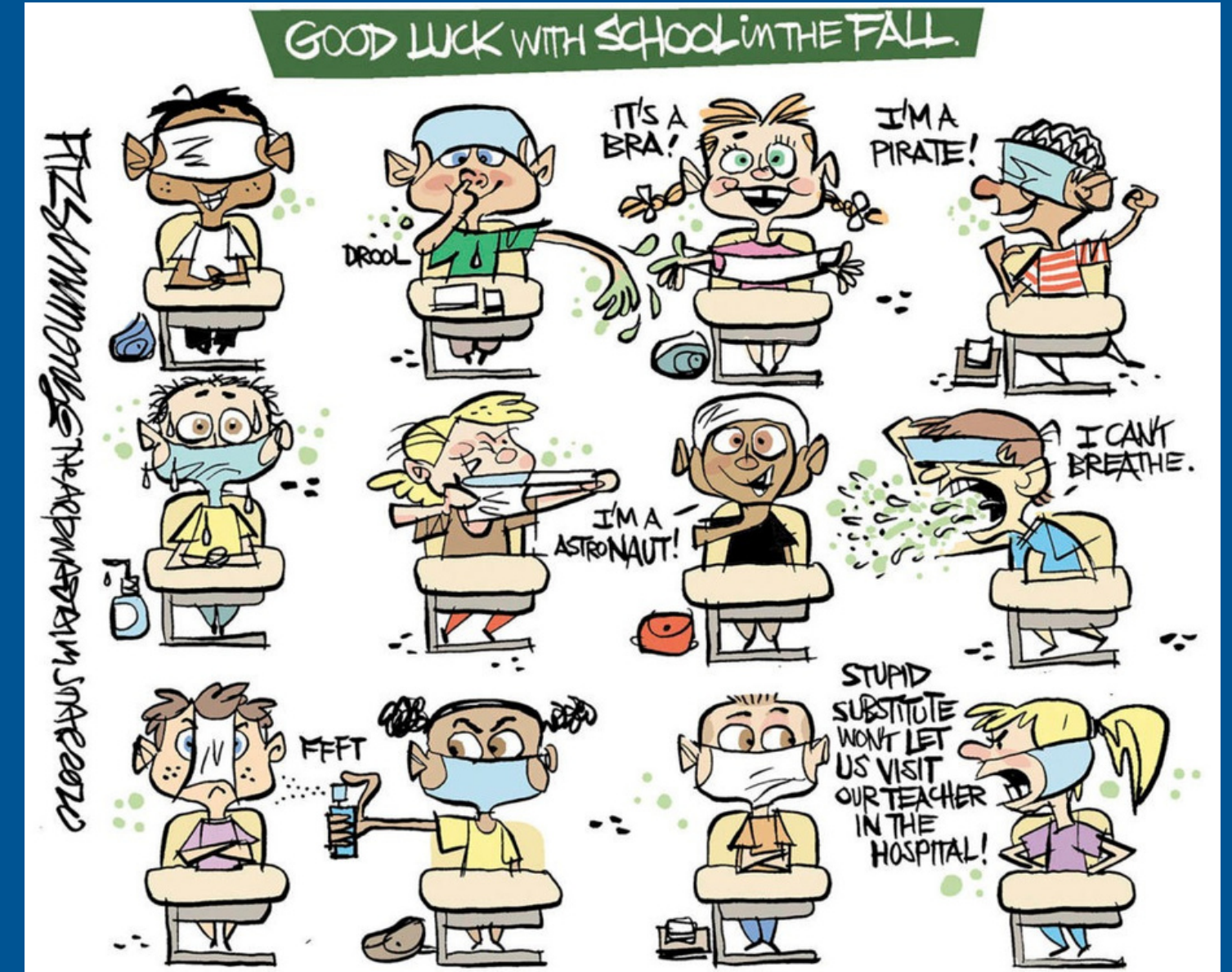




Return to Learn (COVID)

Student Feedback

- Masks
- Cohorts
- Hallways





“WHAT’S THE DEAL with *all these tests?*”

- Students uncovered a critical disconnect: **students do not know the WHY behind standardized testing**
- When they understand they actually *do* care
- Current student board members have:
 1. identified a need to communicate this to the student body
 2. begun work on crafting both messaging and delivery to their peers

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY ELA	MATH	SCIENCE	PSAT
GRADE 3	4h 30m	3h 15m	—	—
GRADE 4	4h 30m	3h 15m	—	—
GRADE 5	4h 30m	3h 15m	4h	—
GRADE 6	5h 30m	3h 15m	—	—
GRADE 7	5h 30m	3h 15m	—	—
GRADE 8	5h 30m	3h 15m	4h	—
GRADE 9	—	—	—	2h 35M
GRADE 10	—	—	—	2h 55M
GRADE 11	—	—	2h 30M	—



Uncharted waters.....

- Students initiated a conversation to allow Naloxone (Narcan) possession on campus
- Listen to the kids!
- Do your due diligence
- Sometimes doing the right thing is not without risk nor easy.





Student Mental Health

What we heard from students:

- existing Student Board Members
- prospective Student Board Members

Student Board Members brainstorm:

- surveys
- messaging & awareness

District Efforts:

- rural mental healthcare challenges
- The Hub





Turn and Talk



#3

What have you heard from students that has incited change in your district?

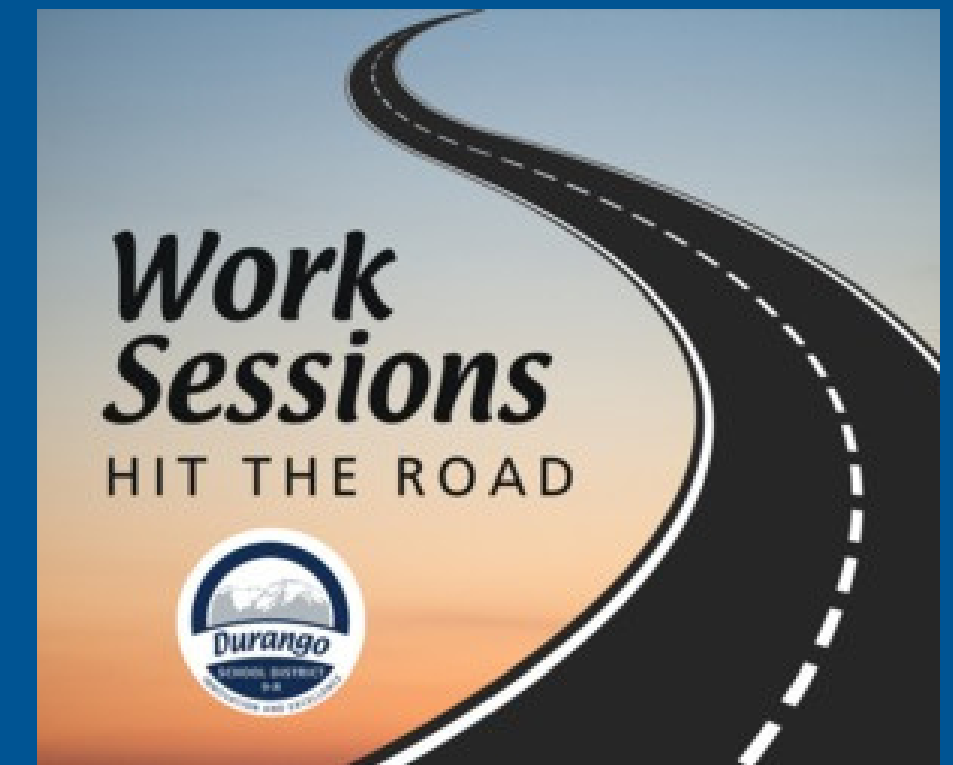
Student Engagement:

More Ways We Connect





Traveling Work Sessions



- Different school each month
- Presentations by students
- Focus on PoG competencies
- Direct engagement with students & educators



Visits, Awards, & More!



Monthly School Visits

“Cop a squat” and Do This!

- Themed Visits
 - e.g. Portrait of a Graduate & Special Populations
- Interact with Students and Staff
- Trust AND Verify

Beyond the Classroom

- Student thank you notes
- Board of Education student awards

Past Student Board Members Speak Out:

Why you need students on YOUR board





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Paths to Student Involvement

School Visits:

- Hear directly from students in their learning environments
- Focus on student-centered school “Showcases”

Impact on Students and Community:

- Board Student Awards
- Student Board Members
- Special Assignments
- Meeting Engagement





Resources on the CASB App

Process

- Student Application
- Student Interview Questions

Student Board Member Policies

- Policy JIBB
- Policy JIBB-R





While we have your attention.....

Come see our PoG presentation tomorrow 9:15-10:15am

&

Look for some of our current student board members at the conference (and feel free to ask them questions)!

DURANGO SCHOOL DISTRICT
Portrait of a Graduate
A wayfinder to balance skills on the path to success

- Courageous LEADER**
Responsible, productive community member who takes initiative
- Creative PROBLEM-SOLVER**
Entrepreneurial, innovative, solution-focused design thinker
- Confident COMMUNICATOR**
Successful writer, speaker, listener, and digital content producer
- Agile THINKER**
Curious, flexible critical thinker exhibiting a growth mindset
- Empathetic COLLABORATOR**
Compassionate, inclusive connector focused on interdependence
- Resilient RISK-TAKER**
Self-aware, persistent, and hopeful future-planner

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Questions?



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