



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**GROUP:** District Accountability Committee

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 20, 2010

**LOCATION:** ESC Board Room

**PRESENT:**

Greg Cogdal	Liz Blei
Jan Zimpel	Leslie Gardner
Susan O'Neal	Amanda Patterson
Sean O'Shea	Shelly Thompson
Andi Walker	Linda Kowal
Bob Vidal	Laurie Porter
Tammy Harimon	Julie Bank
Laura Perez	Kelly Perez, Co-Chair
Alexandra Johnson	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-Chair
Emily Fuchs	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Kristi Steele	Bob Colwell, Board liaison

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Sam Drury	Amy Oaks
Mike Owens	

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. She asked members to consider serving as DAC chair-elect for 2010-2011. If interested please contact Kelly or Carrie Warren-Gully.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Kelly asked if there were any corrections to the November 18, 2009 minutes. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Board Liaison Report**

Bob Colwell, Board liaison said the Board conducted an in-depth discussion on January 14 of budget recommendations presented on December 10. The Board will hold a workshop on January 21 for further discussion, and the budget will be discussed again at the regular Board meeting on January 28.

The projected budget deficit for 2010-2011 is \$7.5 million, and could be more, depending on budget planning at the state level. Bob explained that the Board will take no formal action on budget recommendations prior to budget adoption in June, but it must give direction to administration now so the school staffing process can begin. Bob said that parents and teachers, along with the Board are very concerned about staff reductions. Because more than 80% of the budget is in salary costs, there are few options available beyond those associated with staffing. Bob also mentioned that the Littleton Association of School Executives (LASE) said they are willing to take a salary cut to preserve classroom teachers. Bob said the Board believes this must be a shared sacrifice among all employees. He noted that organizations throughout the nation are experiencing lay-offs, pay cuts, and lost revenue.

Bob encouraged members to check the district web site regularly for the latest budget information. He said the district is providing information to the media so the community can better understand the current financial issues.

#### 4. **Charter School Information**

Connie Bouwman, administrative liaison to DAC stated that the topics on this evening's agenda, charter schools and the district calendar, are a result of members' requests for information. She introduced Mike Owens, assistant superintendent of human resources, who serves as the district's charter school liaison.

Mike Owens said that LPS enjoys an excellent, collaborative relationship with its two charter schools. He explained that charter schools operate under rules outlined in state statute and these laws have been in place about 15 years. The relationship between LPS and its charter schools is guided by LPS Board Policy LBD and LBD-R, Relations With Charter Schools. In his role as liaison, Mike provides advice related to educational matters when asked. Matters related to finance are handled by the district's finance department. Mike clarified that parent concerns about charter schools are redirected back to the charter school principal and governing board because LPS administration has no supervisory authority over the charter schools. Overall, the charter schools are well run and doing a good job.

Mike explained the legal relationship with charter schools, which includes an annual contract that specifies the Per Pupil Revenue (PPR), which is based on the number of students enrolled. Mike said the PPR flows through the district, but 100% of the PPR goes directly to the charter school. The charter school may contract with the district for specific services such as payroll and insurance, and payment for these services is calculated on a per pupil basis. Services for special education students are provided by the district per statutory requirements.

Mike also explained that charter schools may request waivers of state statute and Board policy, which they typically do at the beginning of their operation. LPS charter schools have waived statutes and LPS policies related to teacher licensure, salary schedule, and collective bargaining. However, NCLB states that teachers must be highly qualified. Staff members at LPS charter schools are at-will employees, meaning they do not have an annual employment contract.

Mike reviewed the enrollment data for the charter schools. Littleton Academy has 462 students enrolled and 55% come from the LPS attendance area, and 45% come from out of district. Littleton Preparatory has 509 students with 30% coming from the LPS attendance area and 70% from out of district. He emphasized that the nonresident enrollment at charter schools does not enhance the district financially as all PPR for these students goes to the charter schools. Mike noted that academically, both charter schools score well on the CSAP tests.

#### 5. **District School Year Calendar**

Dr. Amy Oaks, director of secondary education, reviewed the development process for the district school-year calendar, noting it is a collaborative process with parents, teachers, and staff members from elementary, middle, and high school levels. She explained that every two years a committee is convened to develop calendar proposals for two years. Calendar development is guided by Board values, state laws, and the negotiated teacher contract, as well as state rules associated with athletics and activities, and the district transportation schedule. The school year calendar requires Board approval.

Amy explained that schools develop master schedules to meet the unique needs of their building and student population. Some of the constraints associated with the development of a master schedule include the number of students and teachers, as well as available classroom space. Specific student needs are another factor, along with high school graduation requirements and college entrance requirements. School and district values, such as comprehensive high schools and art, music, physical education, library, and gifted and talented at the elementary level must also be considered as schedules are developed. Student meals and transportation influence the schedule as well. Amy provided examples of middle and high school master schedules and reviewed a variety of factors that drive decision-making concerning the schedules. Amy explained that budget cuts also affect the master schedule

#### 6. **Meeting Evaluation and Closure**

Kelly Perez distributed the meeting evaluation survey and explained that the information gathered each month helps in planning future DAC meetings and evaluating the overall success of DAC that becomes part of its annual report to the Board.

#### **Wrap-up**

The next DAC meeting is February 17, 2010.

Submitted by  
Kerry Schaper