



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, January 21, 2009

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Leslie Csikos	Grace Koda
Jamie Driscoll	Greg Cogdal
Laura Perez	Michelle Kastner
Marit Smith	Paula Smith
Jan Zieser	Melissa Radulovich
Sharon Fons	Leslie Gardner
Cifredo Montano	Amanda Patterson
Tammy Harimon	Alexandra Johnson
Lynn Montgomery	Lydia Veeder
Bill Hamilton	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-chair
Korina Padilla	Kelly Perez, Co-chair
Tammy Harimon	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Dallas Jones	Renee Howell, Board liaison
Angie Johnson	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melinda Ness	Jan Brosseau
Karen Goodwin	Sam Drury
Kendra Hatler	

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Carrie Warren-Gully, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She said the Legislative Subcommittee held its first meeting to plan the annual Legislative Breakfast hosted by DAC. She invited all those interested to participate in the next planning meeting on February 18, and to attend the breakfast meeting with Legislators in March.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Carrie Warren-Gully asked if there were any corrections to the November 18, 2008 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Board Liaison Report**

Renee Howell reviewed action and discussion items from the January 15 Board of Education meeting. Action items included accrediting all LPS schools and approving a grant application for upgrades to the East Elementary School playground. This grant application is a cooperative effort between East, the City of Littleton, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District. Discussion items included proposed school year calendars for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, proposed revisions to policies concerning grading, graduation requirements, and promotion and retention of students; and an update on the district's library/media program. Renee said the process to develop school year calendars was very smooth. She commented that the Monday after Winter Break would be a nonstudent day.

Renee commented about the serious budget issues facing the state as well as the district. She said the state will likely freeze funds that have not been spent to help cover the current year budget shortfall. In addition to the anticipated LPS deficit of \$4 million in 2009-2010, there will be less money available at the state level for all sectors of the state budget, including K-12 education. Renee said the district is poised to tackle these serious budget issues through the additional members of the Financial Advisory

Committee. She said state education associations have lobbyists, as do many school districts, to maintain a focus on K-12 education at the state level. She also noted that LPS is well represented in financial arenas around the state.

Renee said the district has a large group of key communicators that are kept apprised of district issues. All members of DAC are included in the key communicator list. She invited anyone interested who is not already a part of this group to contact Kerry Schaper.

4. **The Village Preschool**

Connie Bouwman introduced Melissa Radulovich, principal of The Village Preschool program. She said DAC members have expressed an interest in learning more about the district's preschool program.

Melissa presented information about the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), which is one funding source for eligible students who attend The Village. She also noted that CPP required an advisory committee, and other districts create this advisory committee as a subcommittee of DAC. This subcommittee will be formed for the 2009-2010 school year.

Melissa said LPS had 210 CPP slots allocated by the state for 2008-2009, and 150 slots were used, with the majority at The Village and others at Highland and Sandburg elementary schools, as well as the preschool program at Arapahoe Community College (ACC). She described the factors used to determine student eligibility for CPP funding, and the requirements for preschools receiving CPP funds. Melissa also reviewed the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the CPP advisory committee that will be formed in the fall. She clarified that preschool programs housed at elementary schools are not part of The Village.

5. **Alternative Programs**

Karen Goodwin, director of alternative programs, and Melinda Ness, coordinator of gifted/talented education presented information about LPS alternative programs including the Center for On-Line Learning (COLS), the Redirection Center, Pathways, and Options.

Melinda Ness explained that COLS is for students, grades 9-12 who need a non-traditional learning environment. The program is only for LPS students and is housed at Arapahoe Community College. There are about 120 students enrolled at COLS with content provided by Class.com and Blackboard as the learning management system. The program has two licensed teachers and students are referred to COLS by their home high school, with the majority being juniors and seniors who need to earn credit toward graduation.

Karen Goodwin explained that the Redirection Center provides a site for students in grades 6-9 who have been expelled or are at-risk of being expelled. Maximum number of students is 25. Students receive instruction using the LPS curriculum and also have specific classes that support positive behavior and anger management. Parents are actively engaged in the program as well. The evening Redirection Center program is for students in grades 10-12 who have been expelled or are at-risk of expulsion. Plato on-line software is used for instructional content.

Pathways is a program for students in grades 7-9 who are not successful in a traditional school setting and are often failing classes Pathways can accommodate about 75 students with an average class size of 15 students. The LPS curriculum is taught along with positive behavior support, parent involvement, and the Life Skills curriculum. Options is an alternative high school program for students who need a school setting other than a large traditional high school. About 175 students attend Options with a class size of 15. Options is a closed campus and students have no off periods. The school includes a teen parenting program with a licensed infant care facility.

Karen gave an overview of the function of the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) that meets monthly. The program handles students who are truant as an alternative to Truancy Court. Karen noted that the district's truancy intervention specialist focuses on students at the elementary level who have truancy problems.

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 18, 2009

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper