



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Angie Johnson	Greg Cogdal
Laura Hylbert	Jan Zimpel
Susan O'Neal	Tim Walmer
Laurie Porter	Michelle Kastner
Scarlet Lammers	Linda Kowal
Andi Walker	Bill Hamilton
Jill DeBow	Greg Sumlin
Dallas Jones	Kelly Perez, Co-Chair
Andrea Macfarlane	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-Chair
Dana Stright	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Laura Perez	Bob Colwell, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mollie McDonald
Sam Drury

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. She announced that the Board of Education approved the 2009-2010 DAC charge and at-large members at its October 8, 2009 meeting. She invited members to sign up for a subcommittee if they had not yet had an opportunity to do so.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Kelly asked if there were any corrections to the September 16, 2009 minutes. Connie Bouwman corrected the date of the October meeting noted at the end of the minutes to read, *October 21*. Laurie Porter added her name to the list of those present. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

3. **Board Liaison Report**

Bob Colwell was introduced as the new Board liaison to DAC. He introduced himself and gave some background about his experience with the district and with DAC.

Bob reviewed recent Board agenda items. He said various district committees have given their 2008-2009 year-end reports and the Board has approved charges to the committees for 2009-2010. The Board received an update about the revised math curriculum implementation and information about the elementary large-scale assessment results. Secondary assessments results will be presented at the October 22 Board meeting. As part of its responsibility to approve district curriculum, the Board discussed recommended titles to add to the Multiple Copy Literature list. The book, *Little Brother* was one of the titles on the recommended list, and the Board will have further discussion about the book on October 22, with action scheduled for November 12. The Board also signed a proclamation initiated by the Governor's office in support of Classified Employees Week. The Board will have an update on the state economic forecast and budget, and H1N1 (swine flu) on October 22. Bob said the Board will be dealing with budget issues for the next several months as more information becomes available about state funding. He also said negotiations with the Littleton Education Association (LEA) will begin earlier than usual.

4. **Math Update**

Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment presented information about implementation of the revised math curriculum. She shared data that show elementary CSAP math scores increased after the revised curriculum was implemented in 2006. Mollie also highlighted middle school achievement, which showed the highest percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the CSAP math test ever received in LPS. She also noted that English Language Learners (ELL) made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets in math at all levels. After four years of using the revised math curriculum at Littleton High School, students who chose to take the SAT college entrance exam scored the highest among the three district high schools.

Mollie highlighted some of the factors that influenced the improvement in math achievement, particularly noting work done in professional learning communities (PLCs) and professional development with ongoing support in the classroom. The district still has challenges with ninth grade CSAP and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) scores trending downward. Administration is working to address consistency in the delivery of math curriculum across the district. Closing the gap between subgroups and other students also remains a challenge, and intervention materials and training are being provided through federal IDEA stimulus funds. Mollie stated that technology tools and ongoing conversations among teachers from different levels are some of the ways the district will continue to support academic achievement. She said that the core program of instruction delivered by well-trained teachers is the most effective tool to increase student achievement.

5. **New School Improvement Legislation**

Connie Bouwman reviewed SB 09-163, the accountability alignment bill that was passed in 2009. The bill is designed to align conflicting accountability systems that are currently in place in Colorado, modernize reporting systems with the use of technology, create an effective support system for districts, and enhance accountability at all levels.

Connie explained that this new law establishes state performance indicators for student academic growth and achievement, extent of achievement gaps, and postsecondary readiness. Online technology tools will enable stakeholders to view academic achievement data. Under the new system, School Accountability Reports (SARs) will no longer be published and districts will be assigned accreditation categories. Connie stated that currently LPS is at level one—accredited with distinction, and she expects the district to maintain that level for this year as well. Districts will assign accreditation categories to its schools. Further information about the accreditation process will be defined by rules to be written by the State Board of Education.

6. **Preparation for School Improvement Review**

Connie Bouwman stated that district schools are beginning a new three-year cycle of school improvement for 2009-2012. She noted that the district will continue its current process until changes are made at the state level. She also explained that schools are no longer required to write elaborate plans that contain information that is readily available elsewhere. Schools will submit goal sheets for the three cornerstone goals that have been in place for several years: student learning, equity access, and climate and culture. Each school is required to create goals in these three areas unique to their school. In addition to the written goals, an administrative team comprised of Connie Bouwman, Mollie McDonald, Patti Turner, assessment coordinator, and the appropriate level director, are making site visits to each school to visit with the building leadership team about its school improvement goals.

Connie explained the process that DAC will use to review the school improvement goal sheets at its November 18 meeting. A representative from each school will select one goal and present the goal statement, the activities planned to meet the goal, and the data used to measure progress. Representatives will also indicate whether school improvement is a clear priority in their school. DAC member will be divided into small groups to have these conversations, with a recorder assigned to write down highlights of the group's discussion. This written record will be collected and summarized. The complete outline is attached to the minutes.

7. **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 November 18, 2009.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper