



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2010

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Laura Hylbert	Liz Blei
Jan Zimpel	Holly Biggers
Angie Johnson	Andrea Macfarlane
Lynn Montgomery	Laura Ellen Dafoe
Andi Walker	Linda Kowal
Jessica Forsberg	Leslie Csikos
Tammy Harimon	Julie Bank
Laura Perez	Kelly Perez, Co-Chair
Rayma Nilsson	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-Chair
Emily Fuchs	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Kristi Steele	Bob Colwell, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sam Drury
Mollie McDonald
Patti Turner

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. She said the position of chair-elect for DAC is open. Anyone interested may contact Carrie Warren-Gully or Kelly for further information. Candidates should submit a biographical sketch prior to the March meeting when candidates will be introduced.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Kelly asked if there were any corrections to the January 20, 2010 minutes. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Inspired Writing Update**

Dan Maas, chief information officer, presented information about the Inspired Writing Project, which took place in fifth grade classrooms at five LPS elementary schools. The one-year project was funded through a competitive grant in partnership with Englewood Public Schools. Dan explained that grant funds were used to purchase netbook computers for the fifth grade students involved in the project, and for teacher professional development. He emphasized that the goal of the project was to use netbook computers to support the district's literacy initiative and improve student writing. The project required an evaluation by an outside evaluator, who rated the fidelity of implementation and reviewed student achievement results. Dan commented on the student achievement results on the CSAP writing assessment, noting that students involved in the project made significant gains. In addition, the gender gap was reduced. Because this was a one-year project, these results are represented by a single data point, but are significant. He said the grant project was the impetus for additional netbook purchases for other grade levels to support student writing achievement.

4. **Board Liaison Report**

Bob Colwell, Board liaison said the Board provided direction to administration regarding the proposed 2010-2011 budget reductions at its January 28 meeting. No formal action was taken, but in order to proceed with the school staffing process, it was necessary to direct administration to proceed with the budget recommendations related to staffing decisions. Mr. Colwell stated that because the level of state funding is unclear, no firm decisions can be made, and progress on negotiations with the Littleton Education Association (LEA) is very limited. Bob said it will likely be May before school funding legislation is passed. Bob reviewed agenda items from the February 11 Board meeting, which included approving the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2009. The Board received a presentation on district accreditation and a fuel and utility cost analysis report.

5. **Large Scale Student Assessment**

Patti Turner, coordinator of assessment, reviewed student assessment results for 2008-2009, including the state ACT and national SAT college entrance tests results, CSAP results, and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) results. Patti also explained how school performance is measured by the new Colorado Growth Model, which is the new accountability measure for all Colorado schools. She provided CSAP data as they are plotted on the new growth model. Patti stated that even with new state standards, Colorado will continue to use the CSAP tests for the next two years. It is anticipated that CSAP will be replaced with a test aligned to the new standards, and the new assessment could be very similar to CSAP. Patti also reviewed MAP growth data. She pointed out that for the first time, LPS secondary students reach, and exceeded, predicted scores for math.

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 March 17, 2010. The LPS Legislative Breakfast at the Capitol is Monday, March 15, 8:30 am – 10:00 am. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper