



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, April 16, 2008

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Tammy Harimon	Holly Biggers
Eruna Derbyshire	Alexandra Johnson
Sharon Fons	Bob Vidal
Dallas Jones	Jane Christophersen
Jason Hill	Kathy Reddig
Paula Smith	Angie Johnson
Jan Zieser	Donna Leary
Greg Cogdal	Beth Jackson
Kelly Perez	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-Chair
Scott Roberg	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Julie Bank	Renee Howell, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sue Chandler	Mary Nichols	Sam Drury
Bob Colwell	Lucie Stanish	

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Carrie Warren-Gully welcomed those present and thanked members for their commitment to DAC. She noted that presenters throughout the year have provided good information, and many of the discussion topics at meetings came from members' suggestions. She encouraged members to add comments and suggestions for next year on the meeting evaluation. She also encouraged members to consider serving a second term or assist their school accountability committee in identifying a replacement.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Members were asked if they had any corrections to the March 20, 2008 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Board Liaison Report**

Renee Howell, Board liaison provided information on current legislation, noting that the district's 2008-2009 budget will be finalized after the close of the legislative session. She said several Board members, along with Scott Murphy and Connie Bouwman would be attending the Littleton Community Retreat on April 18-19.

Renee briefly reviewed recent budget reductions the district has made, which include approximately \$1.5 million at the Education Services Center and Transportation. She also said the Facilities Use Task Force will hold a public forum on May 5.

The April 24 Board meeting included approval of additions to the K-12 multiple copy literature and electronic reading assessments lists, employee benefit plans for 2008-2009, nonrenewal of probationary teachers, the quarterly financial report, and a new financial auditor. Discussion items included a report from the Facilities Use Task Force, an ice hockey proposal from Heritage High School, a long-term budget update, and an update on the work of instructional coaches. On May 8, the Board will hear a

report from the Late Start Review Panel and review curriculum revisions for Family and Consumer Sciences and Technology Education.

4. **Election of 2008-2009 DAC Co-Chair**

In accordance with DAC bylaws, members voted by secret ballot to elect a co-chair for 2008-2009. Kelly Perez was nominated for this position. Carrie asked if there were further nominations from the floor. There were none. Following the ballot count, it was announced that Kelly Perez was elected to serve as co-chair for the 2008-2009 school year.

5 **Board of Education/Superintendent's Remarks**

Scott Murphy, superintendent and Board of Education members, Bob Colwell, Renee Howell, Mary Nichols, and Lucie Stanish provided some comments about the district. Sue Chandler arrived later.

Lucie Stanish said she is looking forward to discussions of facility use that will take place in the next few months. She is enjoying learning new things as a Board member and wants to be available to listen to the community.

Bob Colwell noted that he has been president of the Board since the election last November, and this is his third year on the Board. He commented that he was a member of DAC in the early 1990s as a Highland Elementary School parent representative. He noted some of the challenges the district faces include budget, declining enrollment, and facility use. He said that Littleton High School will have a new principal in the fall, and the selection process is ongoing. Bob also commented on Scott Murphy's great leadership.

Mary Nichols said it was good to be back with DAC members this evening. She commented that it has been helpful to learn more about the universal literacy framework, which is a model to assist all students to achieve. She has enjoyed visiting district sites since becoming a Board member and commented on the great things happening at schools.

Renee Howell expressed how fortunate she felt as a Board member in LPS where she has the opportunity to work with wonderful, hard-working people.

Scott Murphy commented about declining enrollment, noting LPS is one of 108 districts across the state that are experiencing declining enrollment. He said he felt very fortunate to work with the current Board members and praised their commitment to the district. He noted most people are optimistic and feel like LPS offers great opportunities, both in academics and other areas, for kids. He mentioned that the Board values a comprehensive educational program and the ongoing budget challenges will provide the district with an opportunity to align district values with available dollars.

Highlights of discussion with DAC Board members included the following:

- LPS revised math curriculum implementation. Math scores have shown some improvement, but it is necessary to obtain three years of data for accurate analysis.
- CSAP, especially at the high school level. CSAP tests are increasingly difficult as the level advances and high school cut scores are higher. CDE is looking at some possible changes. Proposed legislation calls for a review of state standards and CSAP tests.
- CSAP issue at Runyon Elementary School. A teacher at Runyon used a previous CSAP test prompt for review purposes, and the prompt was part of the 2008 test. The error was communicated promptly, and the result is two Runyon 4th grade CSAP writing tests will be categorized as a "misadministration" of the test, and a score of zero will be reflected on Runyon's school accountability report. This was an unfortunate incident but testing must have rules to be valid. The score will not reflect negatively on individual students, although district longitudinal data will be impacted as well as the core achievement index data for the district 90% goal. The district has taken steps to ensure this does not happen again.
- LPS marketing of schools. How can we better market what is good about LPS? A recent enrollment forecast indicated that the district lost about 500 non-resident students this year. How can this be reversed? Best marketing strategy tends to be by word of mouth, but the media can help. YourHub.com is a good online media tool. We need to increase our efforts, including the

district web site, work with realtors, etc. Overall, Colorado has fewer school-age children than in past years, and in Littleton people tend to stay in their homes long after children are raised. Site-based marketing tends to result in schools vying for the same group of in-district students. At the high school level, students often travel some distance to attend an LPS high school. The new Valor High School may be pulling away some students, and younger families are often attracted to more desirable housing in Highlands Ranch.

- Recent editorial regarding the Arapahoe High School principal and LPS response. District did not respond specifically to the editorial, but provided some details in a press release, and Scott Murphy was interviewed by the media. The district is looking at grading policies in order to provide students with opportunities to correct past mistakes. The release of a student's records is a serious concern, and the district is investigating.
- Ten Day Late Start Review Panel. This group is looking at the logistics of the late start PLC days, and recently did a survey of parents, staff, and high school students. The panel will present their report to the Board in May. Communication about what takes place during PLCs is important and more effective communication is needed. School representatives should discuss ways to communicate with parents at school accountability meetings. The district has made a two-year commitment to the late start calendar, and will look at the model as calendars for 2010-2011 and beyond are developed. DAC members can continue to be a conduit for information from the community to the Board. The panel report will be shared with DAC.

Wrap-up

This is the final meeting of the 2007-2008 school year.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper