



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2009

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

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| Angie Johnson | Greg Cogdal |
| Laura Hylbert | Barb DeSpain |
| Amanda Patterson | Jan Zimpel |
| Susan O'Neal | Shelene LaCombe |
| Carla Donnelson | Emily Fuchs |
| Mary Gottlieb | Linda Kowal |
| Andi Walker | Leslie Csikos |
| Jodi Krayenhagen | Greg Sumlin |
| Dallas Jones | Tammy Harimon |
| Brooke Corbett | Kristi Steele |
| Holly Biggers | Kelly Perez, Co-Chair |
| Rayma Nilsson | Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-Chair |
| Lynn Montgomery | Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison |
| Andrea Macfarlane | Renee Howell, Board liaison |
| Dana Stright | |

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Murphy
Sam Drury

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order. She gave an overview of the District Accountability Committee and reviewed meeting protocols, including signing the attendance list and completing the meeting evaluation form. Kelly asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Carrie Warren-Gully, DAC co-chair, reviewed the various subcommittees DAC members may choose to serve on, and invited people to sign up for a subcommittee.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Kelly asked if there were any corrections to the April 15, 2009 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Introduction of New LPS Foundation Director**

Mary McGlone, LPS Foundation Board President, introduced Beth Best, the new Foundation director. She said Beth is a district parent and has 20 years experience. Beth said she is looking forward to visiting every school in the district. She announced that the annual Littleton Stride will be on Saturday, November 7 and will have a family-friendly focus.

4. **Superintendent's Welcome; Budget Update**

Scott Murphy, superintendent welcomed DAC members to the 2009-2010 school year. He stated that he is visiting all district committees, and members of his immediate staff are visiting school accountability committees to present information on the district's budget. Specifically, he is sharing information about current budget realities in order to help people gain an understanding of the issues and to obtain feedback about what is most important in the minds of the LPS community. Scott shared information about the factors that have created the budget deficit and some of the steps LPS has taken over time to

maintain a balanced budget. Scott explained that it is anticipated that the state will make additional cuts to K-12 funding, which could result in a \$6 million loss to LPS in 2010-2011. Scott further explained that available district reserves are at historically low levels. The only way to increase revenue is through a mill levy election or increased funding from the state. LPS currently uses the following guiding principles as financial decisions are made: (1) maintain safety; (2) keep staffing reductions to a minimum; (3) maintain support for students most at-risk; (4) don't use one-time money for on-going costs; and (5) consider a mill levy override election.

DAC members offered the following comments related to the budget challenges:

- Keep our eye on the long range goal—quality programs at all levels
- Value for helping all kids succeed; premier means premier for everyone
- Keep class sizes reasonable
- Keep K-3 reading specialists
- Cut administration; keep quality teachers
- Match values against each other (must choose between 'A' or 'B')
- Look at programs that support most kids
- Have reasonable expectations for enrollment
- High value to keep art, career/technical education, etc.
- Let community know that it is important to be involved
- Stick with the vision
- Consider fund raising; change how things are done
- Re-exam support positions; balance teachers vs. support
- Try to reach people who don't get the message
- Remember the value of gifted and talented education
- Let buildings decide use of staffing points
- Utilize marketing as best we can; "brag it up," e. g. some people are getting mailers from other school districts
- Keep "value added;" it brings people to LPS
- Campaign for kids who live in the district but don't attend LPS schools; send letters to families who have new babies (also outside the district)
- Think about LPS being as good as a private school to help kids get into Ivy League schools
- Educate people about the issues and about LPS programs
- Let open enrolled people know we appreciate them
- Balance technology funding with other resources
- GPA/rigor – keep this goal in mind
- Consider creative ways to keep what we have, e.g. high schools collaborate to offer one section of smaller courses
- Consider economies of scale, e.g. consolidate programs at one site

5. **Board Liaison Report**

Renee Howell, Board liaison, said three Board members' seats are up for re-election. The deadline for submitting paperwork to be a candidate has passed and the three are unopposed, so the Board voted to cancel the Board election, saving the district about \$30,000 in election costs.

Renee said that the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has named its top 20 technology teachers, and Arapahoe High School teacher Anne Smith and George Moore, East Elementary School teacher were among those selected.

Renee reviewed the discussion items from the September 10 Board of Education meeting, which included the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council annual report and 2009-2010 charge, an update on the district's student achievement index, which measures progress toward the district's 90 percent student achievement goal, a preliminary student enrollment update, a review of a grant titled "Enhancing Education Through Technology" (ETT) that will be submitted to the Colorado Department of Education in conjunction with

Sheridan School District, and an update on Adequate Yearly Progress results, which is the measure used in the No Child Left Behind Act.

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 October 13, 2009.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper