



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2016

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Jill Rickard	Cindi Seidel
Nevine White	Shannon Kesselman
Victor Rosales	Christine King
Ashley Miller	Jeff Honke
Laura Mutton	Emma Karahara
Madi Perez	Lauren Tusa
Amy Stivers	Tammy Harimon, Chair
Olivier Martin	Karen Johnson, Co-chair
Lindsey Friedman	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Michele Hanna	Carrie Warren-Gully, Board liaison
Jennifer Proal	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mandy Leensvaart Patti Turner

1. Welcome, Approval of Minutes

Karen Johnson, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed those present. The January 20, 2016 minutes were approved as submitted. She said there was a legislative update prior to the meeting to prepare for the April 7 LPS breakfast with legislators at the Capitol. A second update will be held before the DAC meeting on March 16. All are welcome to attend.

She invited the group to have a table discussion on the following topic:

What good things are going on in your school? Please share with your table at least one good thing that has happened recently or will be taking place this spring. (SNOW DAYS don't count!)

Table groups shared some highlights of their discussion.

Laura Mutton announced that she is hosting a meeting at the Highlands Ranch recreation center on February 24 concerning education funding and historical trends in Colorado.

2. English Language Development (ELD) Update

Mandy Leensvaart, English Language Development (ELD) program specialist presented information about the ELD program in LPS. There are more than 700 English learners in the district, which is about five percent of the student population. The number of students in the program varies throughout the year. These students speak 62 languages and most attend an ELD program school. LPS schools that house the ELD program include: East, Field, and Centennial elementary schools; Goddard Middle School, and Littleton High School. In addition to the students served at these schools, there are 137 students who attend other LPS schools. Most of these students are nearing English proficiency and are close to exiting the program.

ELD teachers at the program schools co-teach with regular classroom teachers. In addition, secondary schools support EL students with content support classes, and East, Goddard, and Littleton have newcomer programs to support students who speak no English. Family liaisons in each program school also support EL students and their families. State funding is very limited and the district provides supplemental funds to support this program.

Mandy said LPS has one of the top 10 programs in the state and received an excellence award in 2014-2015. The award funds were used to support direct instruction to students and for teacher professional development. The Field ELD program was highlighted in a recent national professional publication. The PowerPoint is attached.

3. **Assessment News**

Patti Turner, director of learning services explained the spring 2016 testing schedule for the new Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessments. She said Chromebooks issued to all middle school students will help streamline testing. The Board had a workshop on assessments on January 28. The first administration of CMAS was done in spring 2015, and Patti highlighted metro area school district rankings. She said the first test administration produced good baseline results and are a good indication that the standards implementation work in LPS is on track. Patti reviewed a sample student report of PARCC English Language Arts and Math results, which parents receive. The documents Patti discussed are attached. Further information is available on BoardDocs in the January 28 workshop agenda and on the district website.

4. **Board Liaison Report**

Karen Johnson said she presented the 2014-2015 year-end report to the Board in January, after several delays due to schedule conflicts, and passed along the Board's thanks to DAC members for their commitment of time to serve on DAC. She noted that DAC is only district committee that is legally mandated.

Carrie Warren-Gully, DAC Board liaison said the Legislature has begun the state budgeting process. Currently, the state budget calls for an increase in K-12 funding that will not cover a cost of living increase and employee benefits increases in 2016-2017 for LPS employees. The district will not see any funding increase from property tax increases. Carrie said Great Education Colorado will host a summit on March 4. She asked people to contact her if they are interested in attending.

Carrie commented that the Board holds workshops in addition to regular Board meetings to provide time for in-depth discussion of various topics. These meetings are typically scheduled prior to regular Board meetings and are open to the public. The district Strategic Plan was a recent workshop topic, and that discussion will be ongoing. Recent Board action and discussion items included: District Accountability Committee (DAC) charge and membership approval and approval of the quarterly financial report for the period ending December 31, 2015. The Board heard a presentation on the English Language Development program similar to the presentation at DAC this evening, a nutrition services update, and an update on the middle school 1:1 initiative, which provides a Chromebook to all middle school students. The Board continued its work on Board policies with approval of policies reviewed on January 28, and a discussion of three additional policies. All Board meeting agendas and support materials are available on BoardDocs, which can be accessed through the district website.

5. **Meeting Evaluation and Closure**

Karen Johnson 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 16, 2016. A legislative update will be held prior to the meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper