



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**GROUP:** District Accountability Committee

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009

**LOCATION:** ESC Board Room

**PRESENT:**

Leslie Csikos	Grace Koda
Annalee Collins	Carla Donelson
Holly Womack	Bill Brown
Marit Smith	Emily Fuchs
Jan Zieser	Melissa Radulovich
Sharon Fons	Kate Stewart
Paula Cox	Bill Hamilton
Tammy Harimon	Holly Biggers
Angie Barner	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-chair
Julie Bank	Kelly Perez, Co-chair
Bob Vidal	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Lydia Veeder	Renee Howell, Board liaison
Dallas Jones	

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Mimi Leonard	Kathryn Gaasvig
Mollie McDonald	Sam Drury

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Carrie Warren-Gully, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She said the Legislative Subcommittee met just prior to the DAC meeting. The breakfast meeting with state legislators will be held on March 16 at the Capitol. Legislators will be invited to come at 8:30 a.m. and LPS community members should arrive at 8 a.m. Invitations will be sent in the next few days. All LPS community members are welcome to attend.

Carrie clarified that the district budget shortfall of \$4 million does not include any shortfall coming because of the state's budget shortfall. The actual shortfall amount from the state is still uncertain, and LPS has not addressed that aspect of its 2009-2010 budget. The staffing information schools have received includes a staffing ratio change that addresses only the district shortfall.

Mary McGlone, LPS Foundation Board president, and Bob Young LPSF executive director announced the annual Spirit of Littleton Celebration, which will be held on April 17 at the Riverfront Event Center. The LPS community is invited to support this fundraiser that benefits LPS schools.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Carrie Warren-Gully asked if there were any corrections to the January 21, 2009 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

### 3. Board Liaison Report

Renee Howell reviewed action and discussion items from the January 29 and February 12 Board of Education meetings. Action items included changes to several Board policies, including the grading and assessment system, promotion and retention of students, and graduation requirements. The Board also approved school year calendars for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. Discussion items included the district's large scale assessment results, new high school courses, and an update on the revised math curriculum implementation. The Board discussed PLC work in the district and heard a presentation from East Elementary School about PLC work at that school. Renee explained that the Board approved minimum

graduation requirements that do not reflect all college entrance requirements, and the policy now clearly states that the district's graduation requirements may not be sufficient for college entrance.

Renee commented on the federal stimulus package, noting that use of these funds is unclear. She also said an economic summit is planned to include LPS, along with city governments and other agencies within the district's boundaries. A meeting to learn more about school finance is also being planned for LPS committee members. Renee mentioned the Arveschoug-Bird statutory spending limit provision and said a bill will probably be introduced in the Legislature that merits attention. She said Heritage High School is hosting the Colorado Learning 2.0 one-day technology conference on February 21. Renee invited DAC members to call her at 303 347-3513 if they have questions.

Renee said the Board held a workshop on February 12 regarding the budget, and more discussions will occur in the coming months as further information comes from the state. She said the district budget must be approved by June 30. She said the Board received the budget recommendations from the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) that address the \$4 million district shortfall, and the Board asked administration to proceed with the staffing ratios as outlined in the FAC recommendations. However, there could be more staffing issues later as the state funding is finalized.

#### **4. Career and Technical Education**

Connie Bouwman introduced Mimi Leonard, LPS coordinator of career and technical programs, and Kathryn Gaasvig from Arapahoe Community College. Mimi provided an overview of the career and technical education program in LPS middle and high schools, noting the program is very different from vocational education classes of past generations. Courses are offered in business, marketing, alternative cooperative education, family and consumer science, which is available for both middle and high school students, and technology education, which is also available at the middle and high school levels. Mimi said LPS has very active career and technical student organizations.

Kathryn Gaasvig highlighted the courses offered through a consortium of five school districts (Cherry Creek, Douglas County, Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan) that have partnered with Arapahoe Community College to provide career and technical education training opportunities to students at various locations throughout the participating districts and on the ACC campus. The consortium is called the Arapahoe/Douglas Career and Technical School (ACTS), and offers training in the following areas: agriculture, auto technology, aviation technology, commercial photography, comprehensive building trades, criminal justice, culinary arts, diesel equipment repair, executive internship, graphic design, health sciences technology, high tech academy, and teacher cadet.

#### **5. Large Scale Student Assessment**

Connie Bouwman explained that receiving information on student assessment results is part of the DAC charge as outlined in state statute. Mollie McDonald, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment presented results of the district's large scale assessments, which include Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). She said the district annual report, which is available on the district web site, contains all assessment data for the district and for individual schools.

Mollie stated that LPS ranks first, second, or third among metro area school districts in all CSAP subject areas and at all grade levels. She also noted that LPS consistently scores above the state average on CSAP. Mollie said administration is concerned about the downward trend in math scores, which is similar to state-wide trends. LPS revised its math curriculum to more closely align with state model content standards, and will watch data carefully to monitor the impact of the revised curriculum. Mollie indicated that another reason for the downward trend is the increasing difficulty of the CSAP math test. Mollie reviewed CSAP results for subgroups, noting that English Language Learners (ELL) and students with disabilities are typically the lowest performing subgroups not only in LPS but nationwide. She said it takes time to help these subgroups improve their performance through teacher training and better instructional practices.

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 18, 2009

Submitted by  
Kerry Schaper