



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Angie Johnson	Kathleen Maddaline
Paula Smith	Greg Cogdal
Korina Padilla	Laura Perez
Sharon Fons	Carrie Warren-Gully, Co-chair
Tammy Harimon	Kelly Perez, Co-chair
Julie Bank	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Bill Hamilton	Renee Howell, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Julie Carlson	Amy Tharp	Cindy Graybeal
Rhonda Knoop	Kelly Card	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 Breakfast was held on Monday, March 16.

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair said DAC members would be receiving an electronic invitation to the LPS Foundation Spirit of Littleton Dinner because committee members are part of the district's key communicators network. Kelly encouraged everyone to participate in the dinner.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Carrie Warren-Gully asked if there were any corrections to the February 18, 2009 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

3. **Board Liaison Report**

Renee Howell reviewed action and discussion items from the February 26 Board of Education meeting. The Board approved two new high school courses and the capital reserve fund facility projects for 2009-2010, that total approximately \$1.5 million. Renee commented that there are about \$40 million of other facility needs projects that are not currently funded. Discussion items on February 26 included an update on early childhood education at The Village, a minor attendance boundary adjustment, and a new high school course and textbook.

Renee said that the economic summit for local business and community leaders held on March 13 was well received. She announced the upcoming School Finance Symposium on April 2, 7-8:30 pm, and invited DAC members to share the information with other community members and plan to attend this important and informative meeting. She encouraged members to review information on the district web site under the title, Budget Matters.

Renee announced the approval of several district administrators who are assuming new leadership positions in the fall. Amy Oaks, principal, Goddard Middle School, will be the new director of secondary education. Kathleen Ambron, principal, Wilder Elementary School, will be the new principal at Goddard. Pending Board action on March 19, Steve Wolf, assistant principal at Heritage High School, will be the new principal at Powell Middle School. Current Powell principal Becky Friend is retiring. The selection process for the new Wilder principal is in progress.

Renee commented on the recent Colorado Supreme Court decision that upholds the legality of the state-wide mill levy freeze and reverses the trial court's judgment. She also stated that the state rescission may be backfilled by stimulus dollars, although final information about the state budget and the stimulus dollars has not been received. Renee said that the state's review of Colorado's model content standards is continuing, and both national and international standards are being reviewed as part of this overall process.

4. **Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**

Connie Bouwman introduced Julie Carlson, coordinator of instruction. Julie explained that Professional Learning Communities focus on learning and helping all students succeed in school. She said the district's essential learnings are key to the instructional process. Julie said that PLCs foster a collaborative culture among teachers and focus on results. She noted that PLC time is spent differently than team meetings teachers typically held in the past. Instructional coaches, Rhonda Knoop, Ames Elementary, Amy Tharp, Highland Elementary, Kelly Card, Franklin Elementary, and Cindy Graybeal, Runyon Elementary, presented a PLC simulation that portrayed a discussion among third grade teachers who were discussing instruction for all students, which is termed Tier 1. The instructional coaches emphasized the collaborative nature of PLC work, the focus on data as a tool for decision making, and the importance of written details of PLC work that is submitted to the school principal.

DAC members discussed the PLC process and the role of instructional coaches with Julie and the instructional coaches that were present.

5. **Legislative Breakfast**

Kelly Perez reviewed the discussion with legislators at the annual legislative breakfast held at the Capitol on March 16. Legislators in attendance included: Senator Nancy Spence, Representatives Jean Labuda, Michael Merrifield, and Joe Rice. The LPS community was well represented. Some of the topics addressed included the federal stimulus funds, the possible state rescission, general education funding issues, seat belts on school buses, school nutrition, in-state tuition for illegal immigrants, educator ID numbers, suspension of CSAP testing, financial transparency, TABOR, and Arveschoug-Bird. Those in attendance said that overall the meeting was successful.

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 April 15, 2009. The superintendent and Board members will hold their annual discussion with DAC.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper