



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**GROUP:** District Accountability Committee

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 19, 2008

**LOCATION:** ESC Board Room

**PRESENT:**

Leslie Csikos	Grace Koda
Jamie Driscoll	Greg Cogdal
Paula Cox	Julie Bank
Marit Smith	Carla Donelson
Jan Zieser	Julie Bagnall
Sharon Fons	Emily Fuchs
Cifredo Montano	Mary Gottlieb
Holly Womack	Holly Biggers
Lynn Montgomery	Alexandra Johnson
Bill Hamilton	Michelle Kastner
Korina Padilla	Kelly Perez, Co-chair
Tammy Harimon	Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Dallas Jones	Renee Howell, Board liaison
Scott LaBrash	n

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Murphy	Angie Barner	Drew Brueckner
Kristen Smith	Sam Drury	Dee Maier
Amanda Patterson	Conner Bagnall	Greg Breitbarth
Jackie Weber		

#### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Kelly Perez, DAC co-chair, called the meeting to order. She said Carrie Warren-Gully was out of town on family matters. She noted one change on the DAC agenda. Scott Murphy, superintendent, will offer brief remarks at the beginning of the meeting.

Kelly distributed a draft of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school year calendars and briefly reviewed key points. She asked members to contact her by December 1 to offer feedback.

#### 2. **Approval of Minutes**

Kelly Perez asked if there were any corrections to the October 15, 2008 minutes. There were none. The minutes were accepted as presented.

#### 3. **Superintendent's Remarks**

Scott Murphy, LPS superintendent, said it is a busy time filled with difficult decisions. He thanked DAC members and LPS parents and community for their support. The decision to close schools is due to the fact that the district's school-age population has declined and demographic data do not indicate when that is likely to change. The Facility Use Task Force made a recommendation to consolidate Ames Elementary School students with Franklin and Peabody elementary schools, and Whitman Elementary School students with Highland, Moody, and Runyon elementary schools. Scott said outreach and partnerships among these schools are developing and will continue throughout the remainder of the school year. He noted this is an emotional time and with economic uncertainty it is especially important to take care of one another.

Scott mentioned that the district is managing a number of important events that occur annually during the next several months, including discussion of the 2009-2010 budget recommendations, upcoming

staffing deadlines, enrollment projections, and kindergarten pre-registration. Scott said the Financial Advisory Committee is looking at all areas of the budget to determine ways to reduce expenditures, but staff reductions are inevitable because the district's biggest expense is in people. He anticipates there will be decisions made soon.

Scott commented that the districts that lost bond and mill levy elections are facing tough times and huge budget deficits in many cases. He said he is proud to be part of the close, caring community that is LPS. Scott responded to several questions from members including a rumor that the Whitman property had been sold. Scott assured those present that this was not true and there is no plan to sell any district property. Scott also noted that the human resources department is working with staff members affected by the upcoming school closures to help them make decisions and choices. Scott said the buildings will continue to be maintained as if they were fully utilized and explained that these costs are relatively inexpensive. The cost savings when a building is closed comes from the savings in staffing a building.

4. **Board Liaison Report**

Renee Howell encouraged people to call the district with questions. She commented that this was a very difficult decision for the Board, and each Board member worked hard to be well informed before voting to close schools.

5. **2008 School Improvement Plan Updates**

Connie Bouwman explained that DAC is charged by state statute to review school improvement goals. Groups were formed and each group discussed a goal from their respective school's improvement plan. Connie asked each group to write down key points and comments about each goal.

Following the small group discussions, members offered comments, which included a positive reaction to having different levels (i.e. elementary, middle, high) represented in groups, and the increased understanding of the work being in professional learning communities and its effect on improving student achievement.

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. Kelly reminded the group that there will be no DAC meeting in December.

**Wrap-up**

The next DAC meeting is January 21, 2009.

Submitted by  
Kerry Schaper