



MINUTES OF MEETING

GROUP: District Accountability Committee

DATE: Wednesday, October 19, 2016

LOCATION: ESC Board Room

PRESENT:

Amy Stivers
Lindley McCrary
Valerie Wassill
Olivier Martin
Laura Mutton
Ashley Miller
Jennifer Proal
Victor Rosales
Erin Weaver
Ashley Festoso

Cindi Seidel
Michelle LaCrue
Christine King
Tiffany Panza
Lindsey Friedman
Marcus Bianchi
Karen Johnson, Chair
Connie Bouwman, Administrative liaison
Carrie Warren-Gully, Board liaison

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Ewert
Jessica Gould

1. **Welcome, DAC Business**

Karen Johnson, DAC chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed those present, and commented that some members are attending parent-teacher conferences this evening. The September 21, 2016 minutes were accepted as presented.

2. **Superintendent's Update**

Brian Ewert, superintendent, presented information about an emerging plan concerning professional learning communities (PLCs). He said it is important to invest in teachers so they can do what is expected of them in today's 21st century classrooms. He explained that while the 10 late start days throughout the school year offer PLC time for teachers, this is not the ideal model. He explained that PLCs support student achievement by providing an opportunity for teachers to meet and discuss the needs of students and identify ways to help every student. He emphasized the district's goal statement: "100% of Littleton Public Schools students will graduate prepared for meaningful postsecondary opportunities," and said in LPS, all means all in terms of student achievement and high school graduation. He cited a statement from Jonathon Saphier, who said PLCs improve teaching, which improves student achievement results. Brian added that best results are obtained when PLCs are implemented with fidelity.

Brian explained the proposed model for PLCs, which provides 35 PLC late start days. Teachers would come to school 15-30 minutes early and students would arrive 60 minutes late, giving teachers 90 minutes of PLC time on a weekly basis. This model enables teachers to review formative assessments (such as classroom tests) more frequently and make needed adjustments in teaching more quickly. Brian said he and Amanda Crosby, the Littleton Education Association (LEA) president are conducting a listening tour throughout the district with teachers, PTOs, and school and district advisory committees. In addition to these meetings, administration will work with LEA during negotiations beginning in January and seek Board approval for the 2017-2018 school year calendar in March or April 2017. *(The PowerPoint presentation is attached)*

DAC member questions and comments included the following:

- Impact on elementary school SACC (school-age child care programs)
- Suggested a video made by teachers showing the impact and value of PLCs
- Support for later start time at high schools
- Suggested that PLC agendas and outcomes be shared with parents

3. **Nutrition Services**

Jessica Gould, director of nutrition services and print shop presented information about the district's nutrition services program. She explained that the district participates in several federal programs including breakfast in the classroom, national school lunch program, and after-school snack program. The district has a fresh fruit and vegetable grant and participates in the summer feeding program. Jessica highlighted the many regulations that must be followed and explained that students eligible for free or reduced lunch must apply annually.

Jessica said nutrition services is working to educate parents and students about required meal components. For breakfast, a student must take three components, which include fruit, milk, and grain. Lunch also has three required components including fruit, vegetable, milk, grain, and protein. Signage on the food line helps students know what is required on their tray.

Jessica said nutrition services is focusing on financial stability, communication and education, and involvement. She explained that the program is self-sustaining and controlling expenses and increasing revenue are significant challenges. Jessica provided some participation and budget data that highlights some of these challenges. The PowerPoint is attached.

4. **Board Liaison Report**

Carrie Warren-Gully, Board liaison, said the Board has been discussing graduation guidelines, which will go into effect with incoming ninth graders in fall 2017 (class of 2021). The Board is also hearing reports from district advisory committees and approving charges for these committees. Policy work continues, with the current focus on policies related to employees and human resources. The Board is also beginning discussion for the 2017-2018 budget and the annual financial audit is coming up. Carrie said there is concern about a possible increase in the negative factor at the state level. Part of the budget discussion includes conversation about funding options for some one-time expenditures that are delineated in a White Paper 2.0 prepared by the superintendent and his staff. Information about Board meetings can be found by accessing BoardDocs: <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/lpsco/Board.nsf/Public>.

6. **Meeting Evaluation and Closure**

Karen 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 November 16, 2016.

Submitted by
Kerry Schaper